9
Delicious in Dungeon
RYOKO KUI

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Ryoko Kui

9

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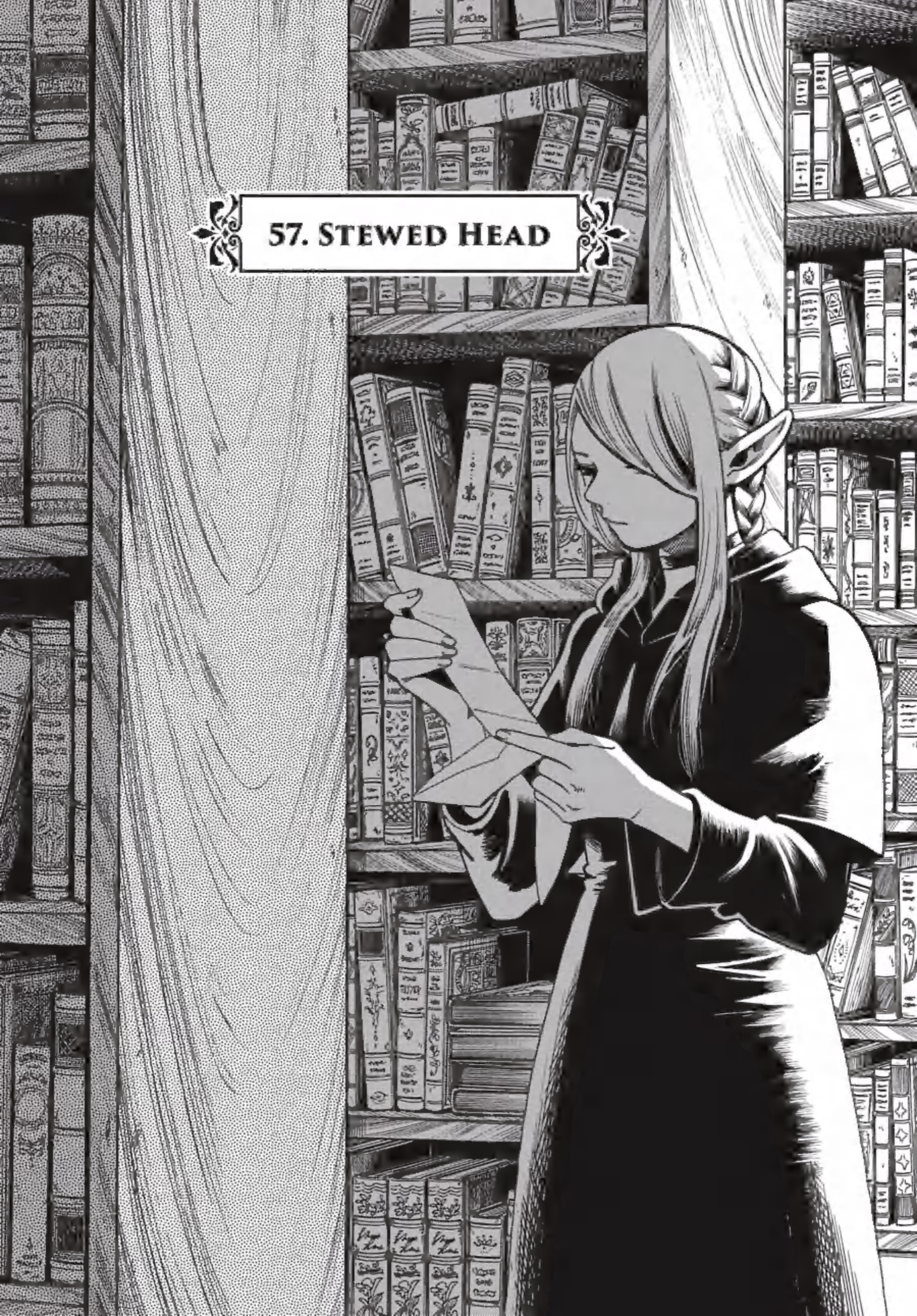
CHAPTER 57

LAIOS!

STAY WITH ME!!

LAIOS!!



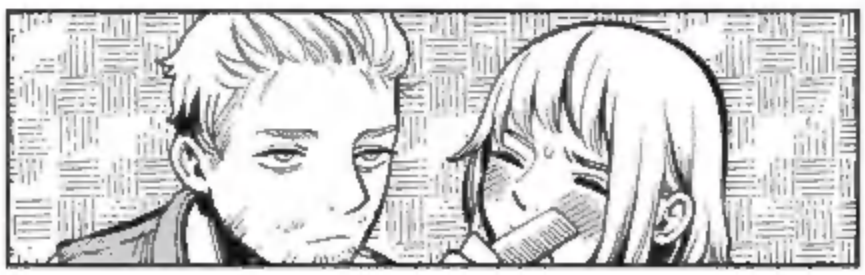
57. Stewed Head

...LAIOS.
BIG BROTHER!

YOU CAN'T! I MEAN IT!
SHAVE YOUR WHIS-KERS!
PUT ON THE CLEANEST CLOTHES YOU HAVE!

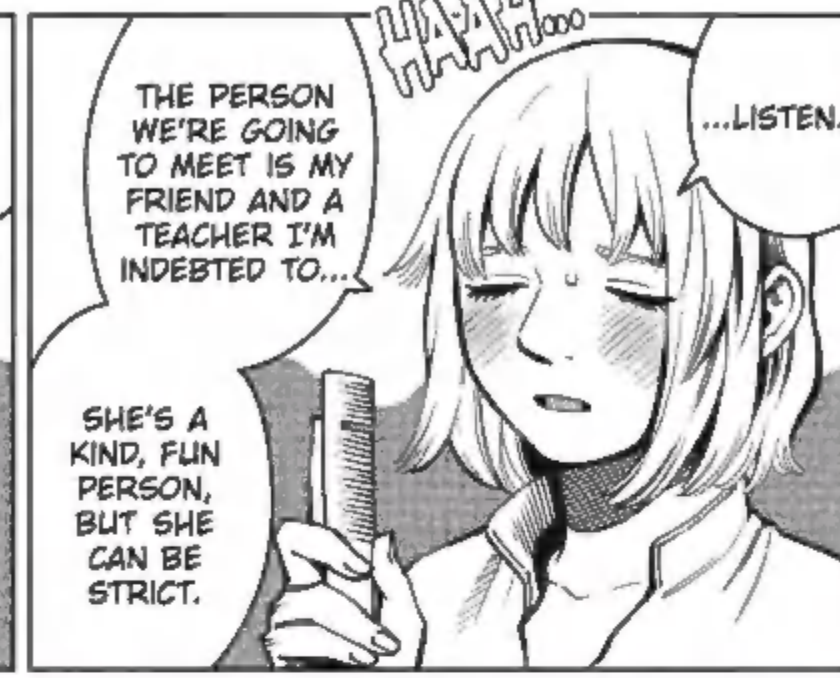
WHAT, FALIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU'RE NOT GOING LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?

UMM...



THESE ARE THEM.
OH, RIGHT.
I WAS SO BUSY CLEANING THE ROOM THAT I FORGOT.

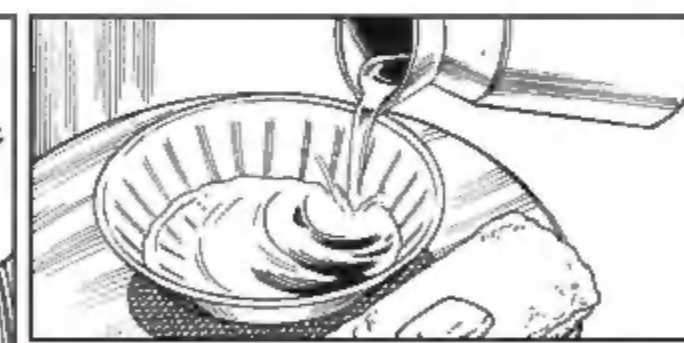
SO—
I KNOW.
"BE RESPECT-FUL," RIGHT?


HA-AH...
...LISTEN.
THE PERSON WE'RE GOING TO MEET IS MY FRIEND AND A TEACHER I'M INDEBTED TO...
SHE'S A KIND, FUN PERSON, BUT SHE CAN BE STRICT.

...AND SHE THINKS YOU TOOK ME AWAY BY FORCE.
AFTER ALL, SHE STILL TREATS ME LIKE I'M TEN YEARS OLD...
HA HA HA!
WHAT THE HECK?

...I DIDN'T MENTION IT, BUT...
SHE'S ANGRY RIGHT NOW.

SHE'S RESEARCHING OLD MAGIC.
THERE'S LOTS OF IT IN DUNGEONS, SO SHE WANTS TO STUDY IT.



STILL...
WHY DOES SOMEONE SO BRILLIANT WANT TO BE AN ADVEN-TURER?

NO EXPERIENCE...?
HUH? ELF ??
AN ELF!?
SKIP IT.
ANOTHER WOMAN?
A MAGICIAN?
I TALKED IT OVER WITH EVERYBODY ELSE, AND—
TO BE HONEST, THEY WEREN'T THRILLED WITH THE IDEA.
AN ELF, HUH...

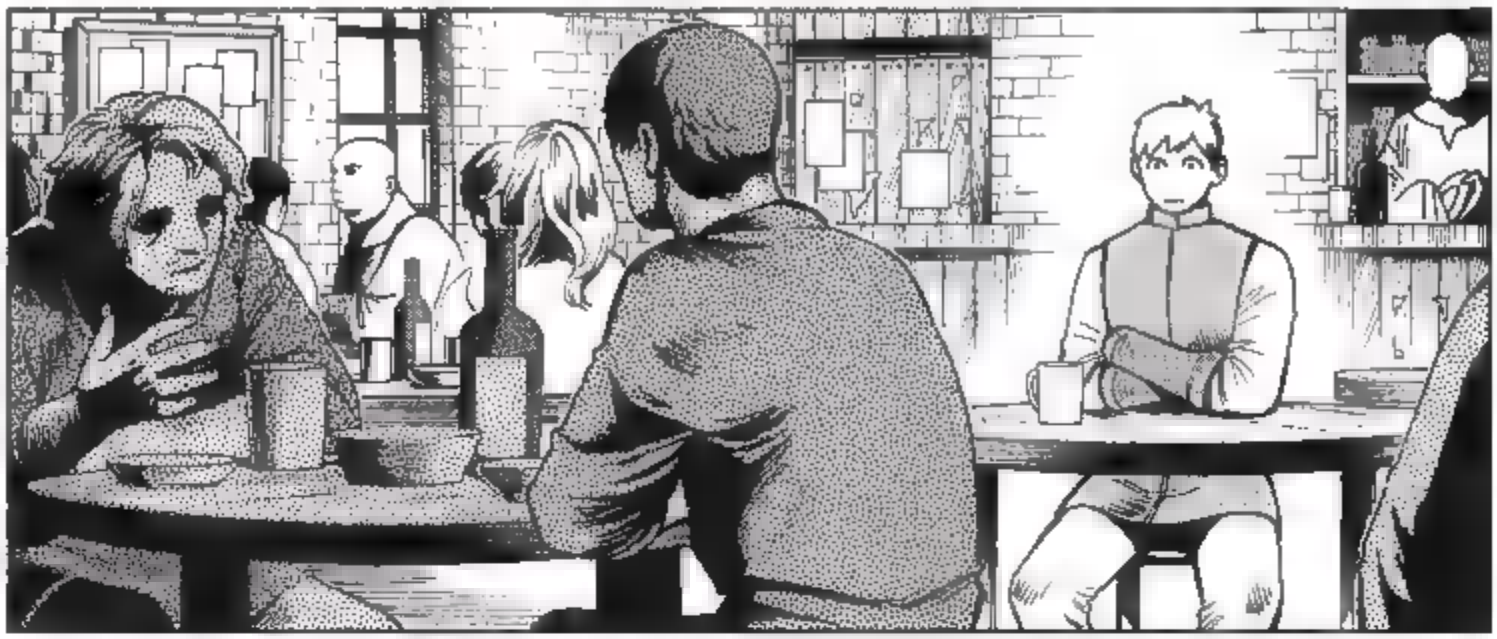
IT ALMOST NEVER GOES THE OTHER WAY.
MOST RESEARCHERS JUST HIRE ADVENTURERS.

RIGHT, BUT...
I MEAN, THEY DON'T TEACH ATTACK SPELLS IN SCHOOL, RIGHT?
...I DOUBT WE'LL NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
?

BASHA (SPLASH)
HER LACK OF EXPERIENCE CONCERNS ME TOO.
THE MAGIC YOU NEED IN THE DUNGEON IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU'D USE OUT IN SOCIETY.

MARCILLE.
HER NAME IS MARCILLE.

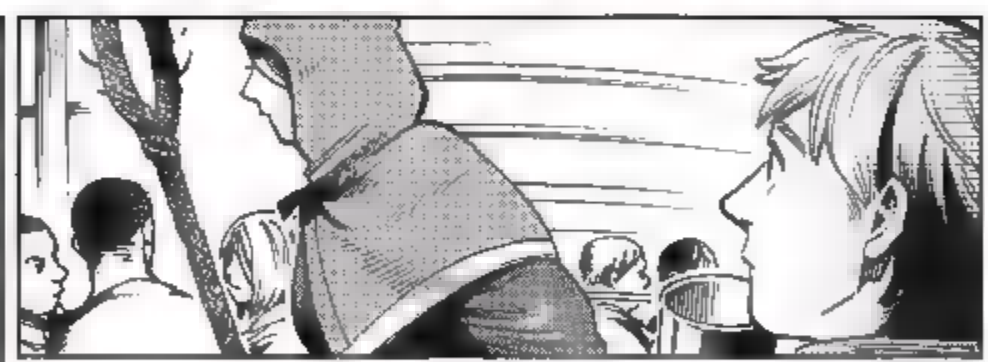
YOUR FRIEND. WHAT WAS HER—
UH...



SEE ELVES ARE
I'VE NEVER TALKED TO AN ELF BEFORE.
ALL I KNOW ABOUT THEM IS THAT THEY LIVE A REALLY LONG TIME.

WAIT FOR US AT THE TAVERN.
I'LL MEET HER AT THE PORT ON MY OWN, AND THEN I'LL INTRODUCE YOU.
HEH HEH!
SHE'S ALL FIRED UP ABOUT THIS.

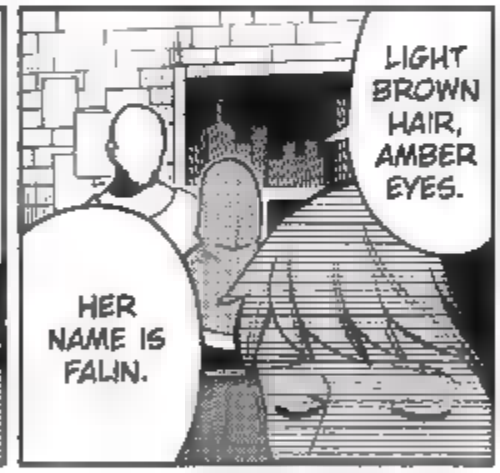
EXCUSE ME. YOU DROPPED THIS.
OH...

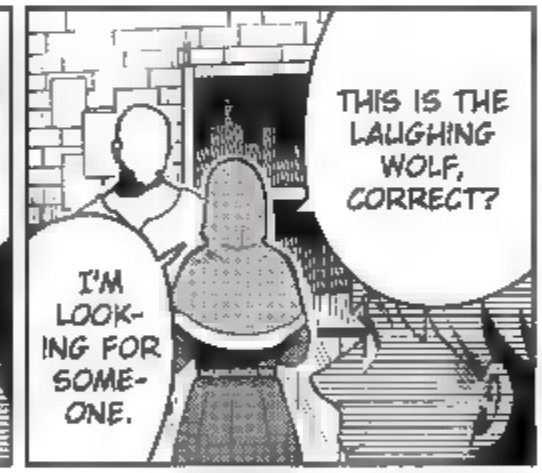


HIRARI (FLUTTER)
ひらり

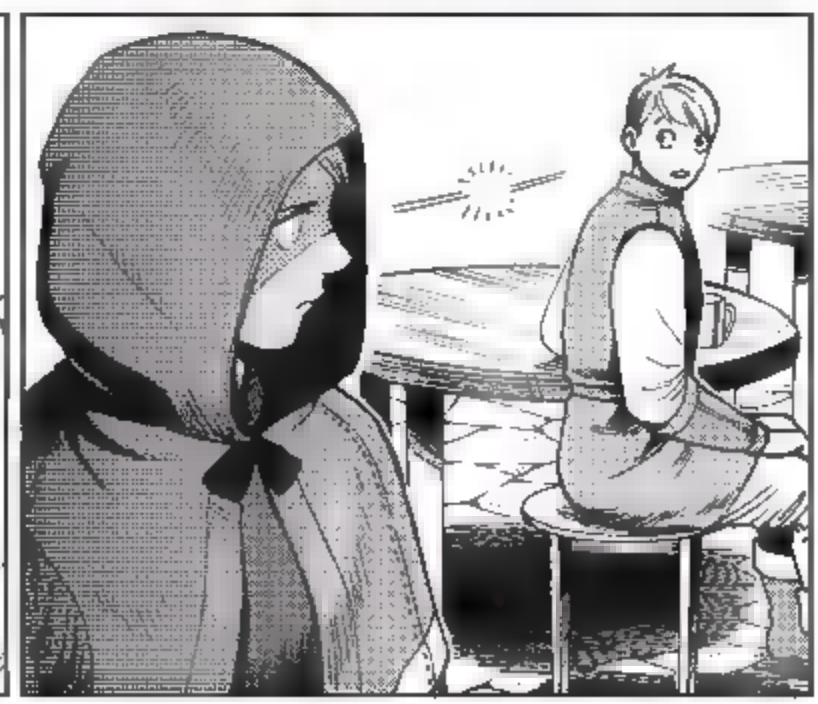
THANKS.

OH, FALIN'S NOT HERE, BUT...
...HER BROTHER'S OVER THERE.


LIGHT BROWN HAIR, AMBER EYES.
HER NAME IS FALIN.

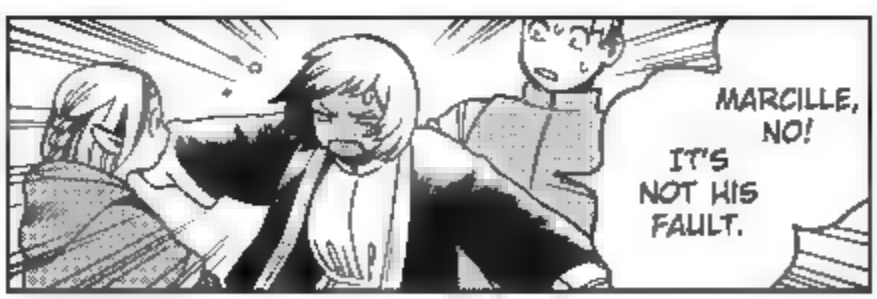

THIS IS THE LAUGHING WOLF, CORRECT?
I'M LOOK-ING FOR SOME-ONE.

IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU. I'M LAIOS.



YOU!
Y-

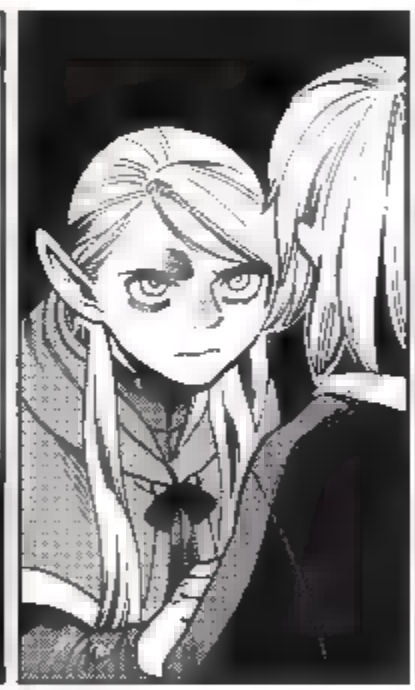
YOU TOOK FALIN—

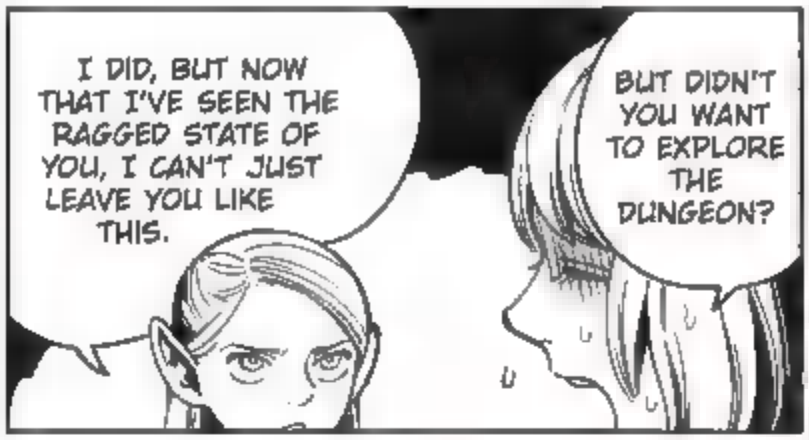

MARCILLE, NO!
IT'S NOT HIS FAULT.

A LOVERS' SPAT.
IT'S A FIGHT.
I GOT THE MEETING SPOT WRONG.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
FALIN.

AAAAH!
BAN (BAM)
WAIT, WAIT!

SFX: GAKU (SHAKE) GAKU GAKU




I DID, BUT NOW THAT I'VE SEEN THE RAGGED STATE OF YOU, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE YOU LIKE THIS.
BUT DIDN'T YOU WANT TO EXPLORE THE DUNGEON?

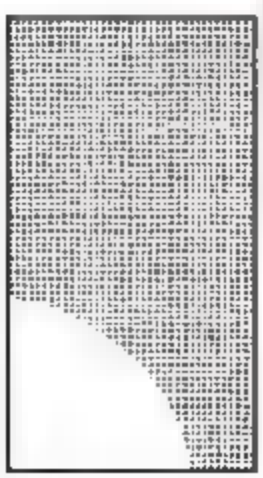
HUH!?
YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK TO SCHOOL!?

I'LL APOLOGIZE TO THE SCHOOL WITH YOU.
LET'S LEAVE ON THE NEXT SHIP.
YOU CAN CATCH ALL THE BUGS YOU LIKE. ALL RIGHT?

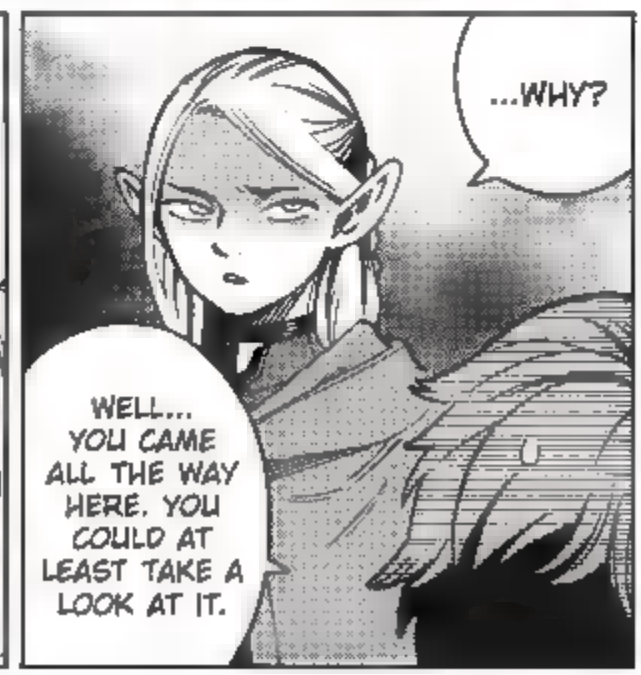
BEFORE YOU DO THAT...
...WHY NOT MAKE A TRIP INTO THE DUNGEON?

I SEE.
THEN...

THEIR BEST CLOTHES
NO...
BROTH-ER...



BESIDES, IF YOU SEE WHAT WE USUALLY DO IN THERE...
...IT MAY EASE YOUR MIND A LITTLE.


...WHY?
WELL... YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE. YOU COULD AT LEAST TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

GOOOOO
CHWOOOO

THE FIRST FLOOR DOWN ISN'T VERY DANGEROUS.
WE'LL SHOW YOU AROUND.
DUNGEONS LIVE AND DIE!?

SO THIS IS YOUR FIRST DUNGEON?
むっ
MU (IRK)
I'VE BEEN IN SEVERAL.
IT IS MY FIRST LIVING, MAN-MADE DUNGEON, THOUGH.

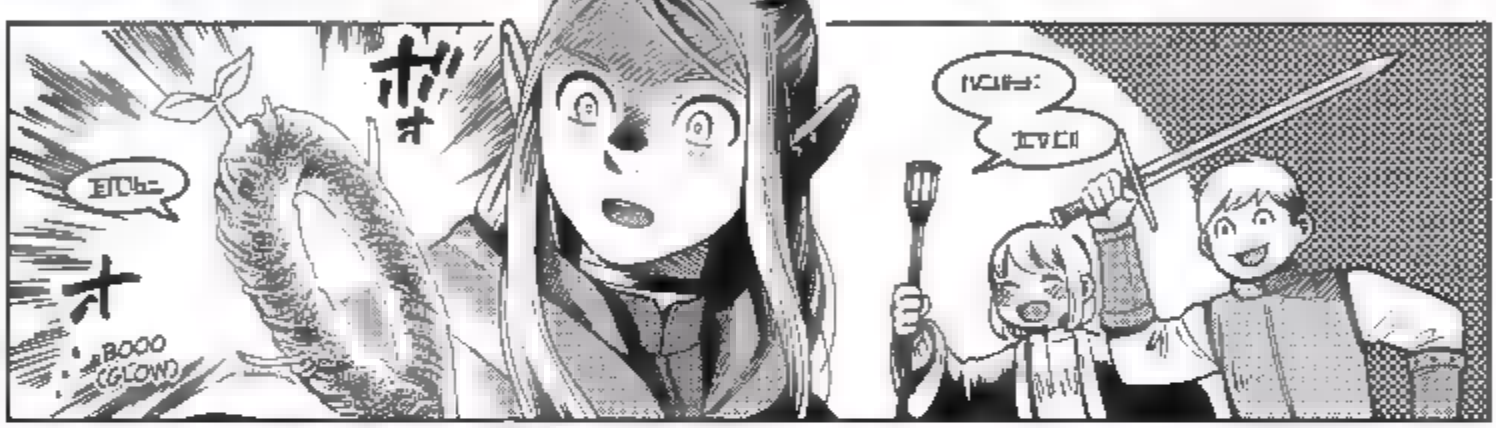
FALIN, C'MERE A MINUTE.

YOU'VE GROWN SO MUCH...
BROTHER, YOU'RE SO SMART!
HAPPY END
HEH HEH HEH.
I KNOW.
SHE'S NEW AT EXPLORING. A CRISIS.
YOU SAVE HER.

...BASICALLY, WE NEED TO GET HER TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR COMPETENCE, RIGHT?

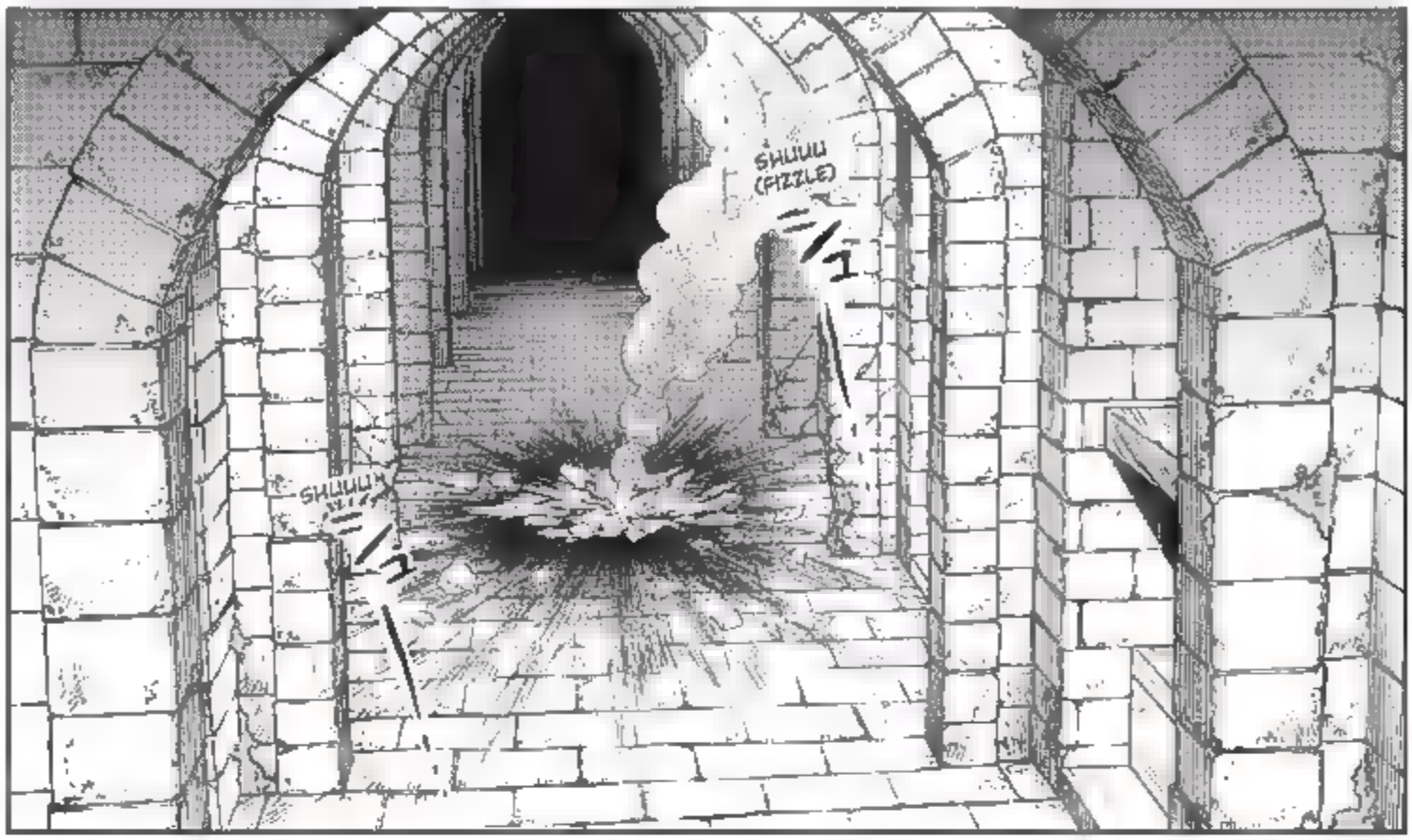
LET US HANDLE THIIIS—
MAR-CIIILLE, LOOK OUUUT!

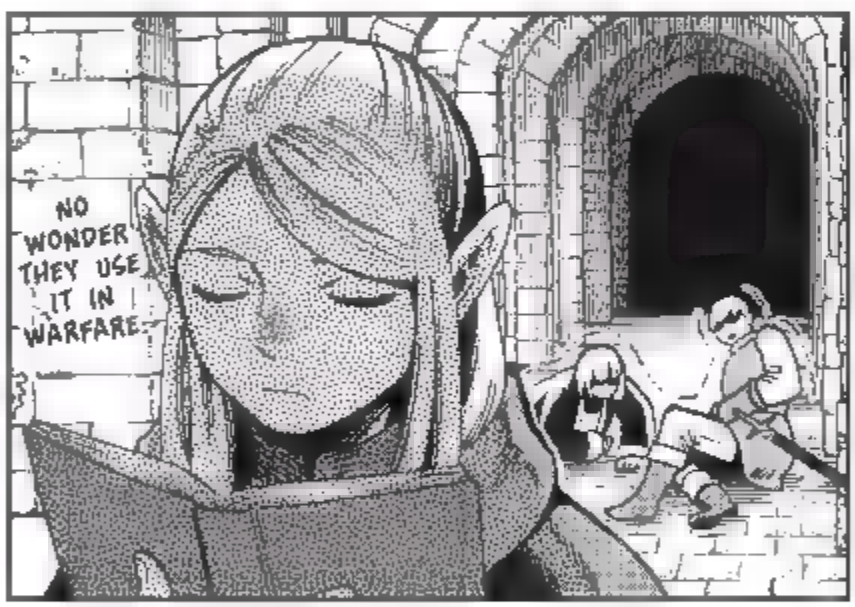
AHA!
A WALKING MUSHROOM. PERFECT TIMING.
PETTA (PATTER)
PETTA

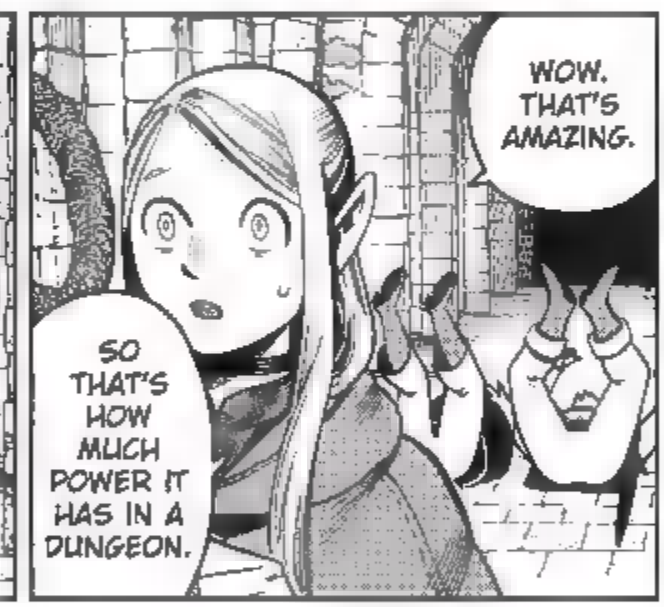

BOOO (GLOW)

DOGOO (KABOOOM)

KA (FLASH)


SHUUUU (FIZZLE)
SHUUUU


NO WONDER THEY USE IT IN WARFARE.


WOW. THAT'S AMAZING.
SO THAT'S HOW MUCH POWER IT HAS IN A DUNGEON.

HUH?
HOW OLD IS SHE?

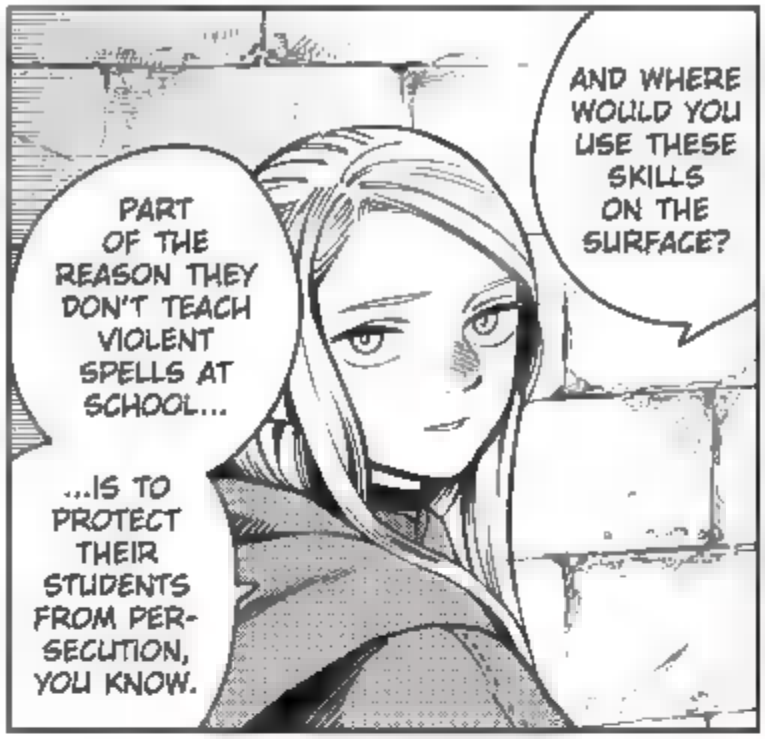
EVEN IF SHE HAS NO EXPE-RIENCE...
...SHE HAS KNOWLEDGE SHE'S SPENT DECADES ACQUIRING.

I THOUGHT SHE'D NEVER EXPLORED A DUNGEON...
SHE'S BEEN STUDYING.
SHE LEARNED WHAT KINDS OF SPELLS IT TAKES.

YOU TWO...
WHEEZE! WHEEZE!
NOT GOOD. THIS WASN'T WHAT I...

TH-THAT QUES-TION!
SHE'S TESTING OUR DEDI-CATION...!

WHY ARE YOU SO SET ON EXPLORING THE DUNGEON?
PATAN (SHUT)


AND WHERE WOULD YOU USE THESE SKILLS ON THE SURFACE?
PART OF THE REASON THEY DON'T TEACH VIOLENT SPELLS AT SCHOOL...
...IS TO PROTECT THEIR STUDENTS FROM PERSECUTION, YOU KNOW.

IT'S ACTUAL EXPERIENCE, SO IT'S MORE EDUCATIONAL THAN READING BOOKS!

I'LL SET YOU UP WITH A CUTE GIRL! FOR CHEAP.
A MAGICIAN?
...FOR MONEY?
COULD YOU EXCHANGE THIS...
CAN YOU PAY ME EARLY?
MONEY'S TIGHT...
THE FULL AMOUNT!!!
PAY UP FRONT!!!
I THINK YOU COULD BUILD A MORE DECENT NETWORK OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON.
...IF I HAD A BIT MORE MONEY...
...GET BETTER...

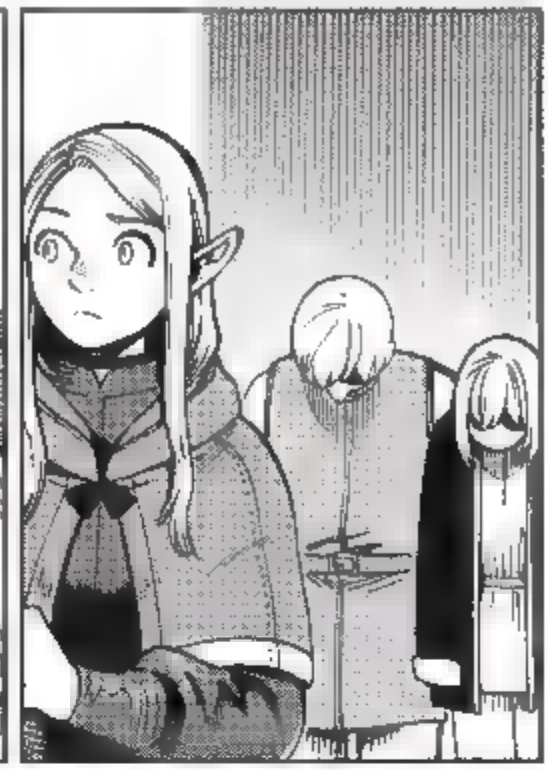
YOU GET TO KNOW LOTS OF PEOPLE WHILE YOU'RE EXPLORING!
THEY'RE ALL GOOD PEOPLE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE SHALLOW LEVELS ARE ALREADY STRIPPED.
YOU'RE HAVING TO PUT IN MORE AND MORE WORK FOR LESS REWARD, AREN'T YOU?

YOU NEVER LACK FOR MONEY IN THIS JOB!
THE WALLS IN THE DEEP LEVELS ARE COVERED IN GOLD.

SHE'LL SEE THROUGH OUR BLUFFING FAST, THOUGH.

SHOULDN'T WE JUST TELL HER THE TRUTH...?
NO. NO WAY.
SHE'LL THINK IT'S A DUMB GOAL.



JYURU (OOZE)

BOCHA (SPLAT)

JU
(SIZZZ)

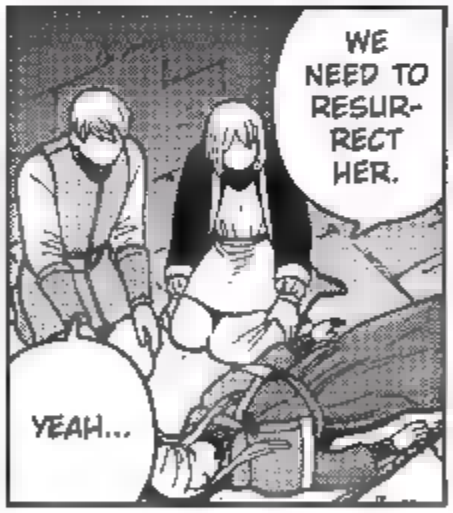
FIRE!
FIRE!

MMRGH!?
BUKU
(BRBL)
BUKU
BUKU
WAH!

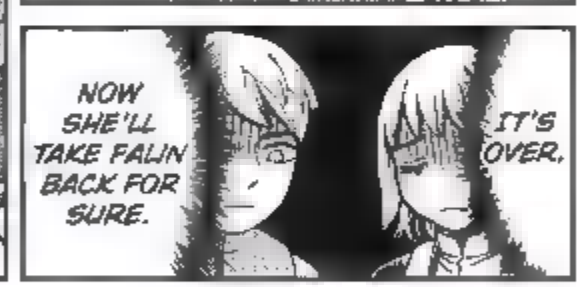
SA
(SKITTER)
SA
SA
RYA
(ZWIP)
BOCHON
(SPLOING)

OH.

THIS AREA IS A SLIME BREEDING GROUND...
I...I GOT CARELESS.
HFF!
HFF!

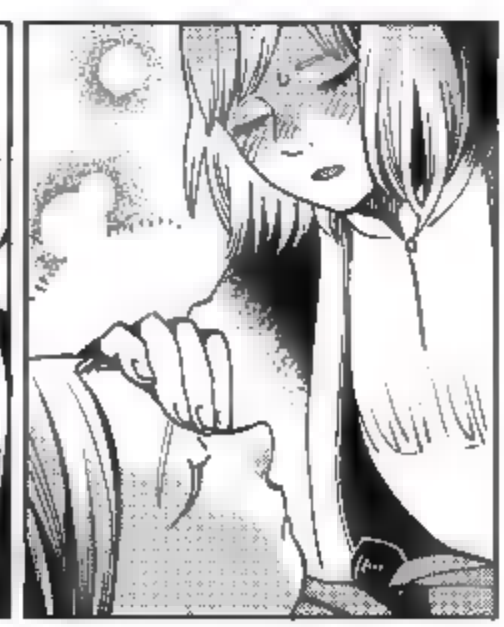

WE NEED TO RESUR-RECT HER.
YEAH...

DID SHE HIT HER HEAD WHEN THE SLIME STARTLED HER?
SHE'S DEAD.


NOW SHE'LL TAKE FALIN BACK FOR SURE.
IT'S OVER.

A-ARE YOU OKAY?
KFF! GHK!
KOFF! BHK!

BLR GH!



O-ONLY A LITTLE BIT.
YOUR SOUL WAS STILL HERE, SO YOU WERE BASICALLY JUST UNCONSCIOUS.

WAS... WAS I...
...DEAD... JUST NOW?

BA (WHIP)

BOGO (MUTTER)
...TIC...
HUH?

FAN...

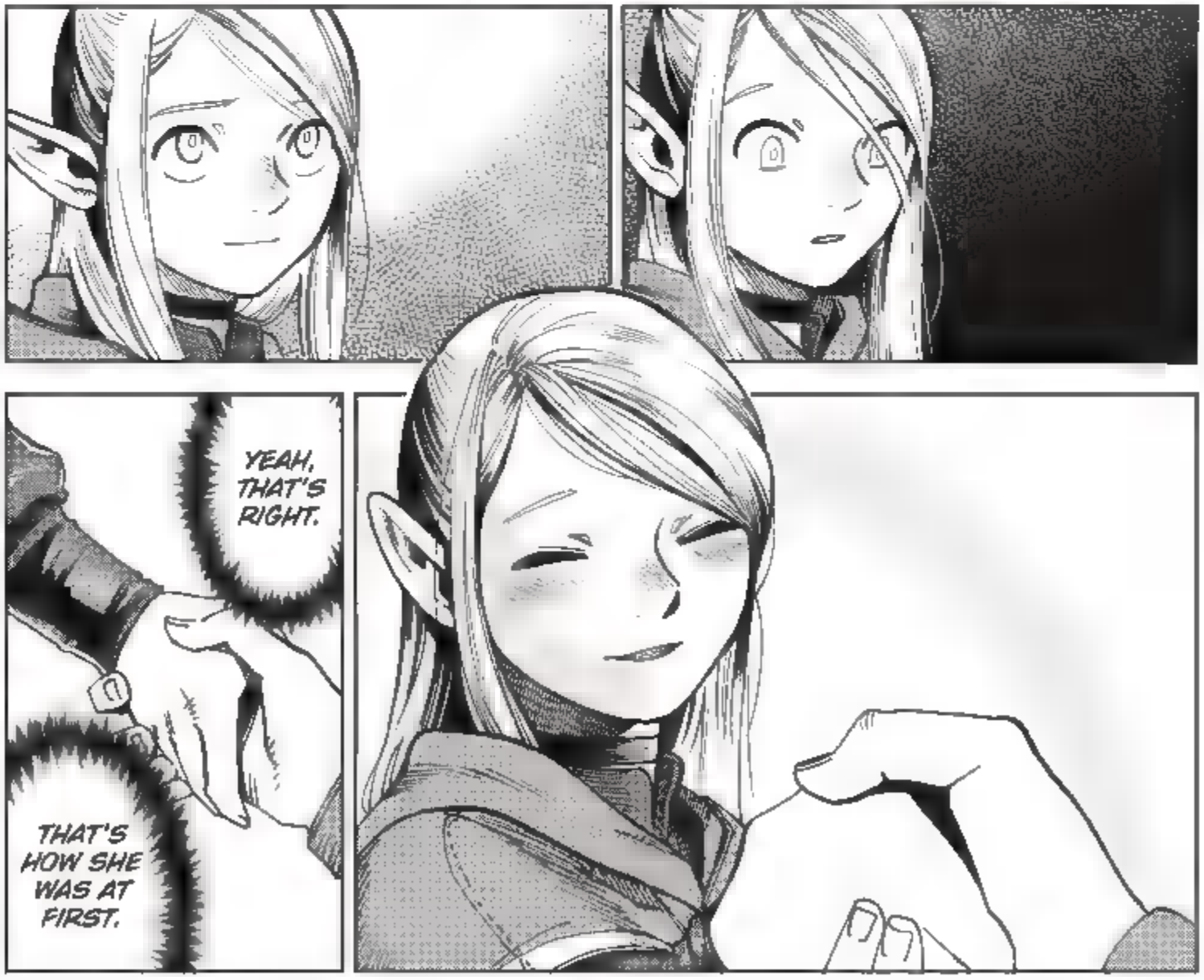
...TASTIC!!

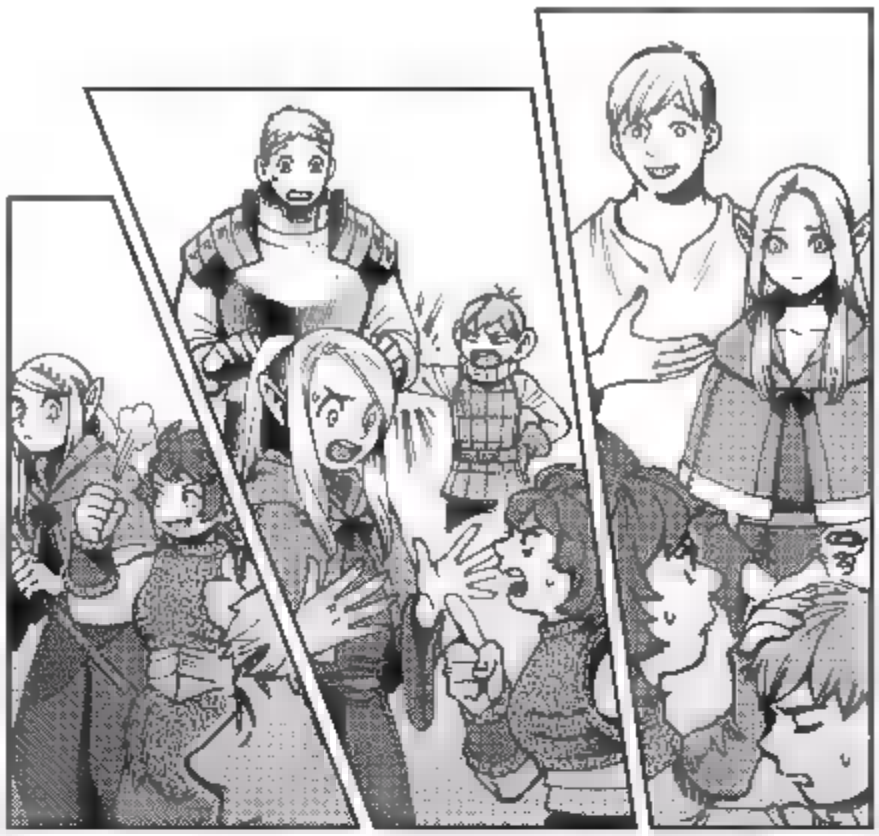
ANCIENT MAGIC ACTUALLY MAKES THINGS LIKE THAT POSSIBLE!
...BUT UNTIL IT HAPPENED TO ME, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
I'D HEARD ABOUT IT...

...MY DREAM'S SURE TO COME TRUE.
IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT WHERE THIS POWER COMES FROM...

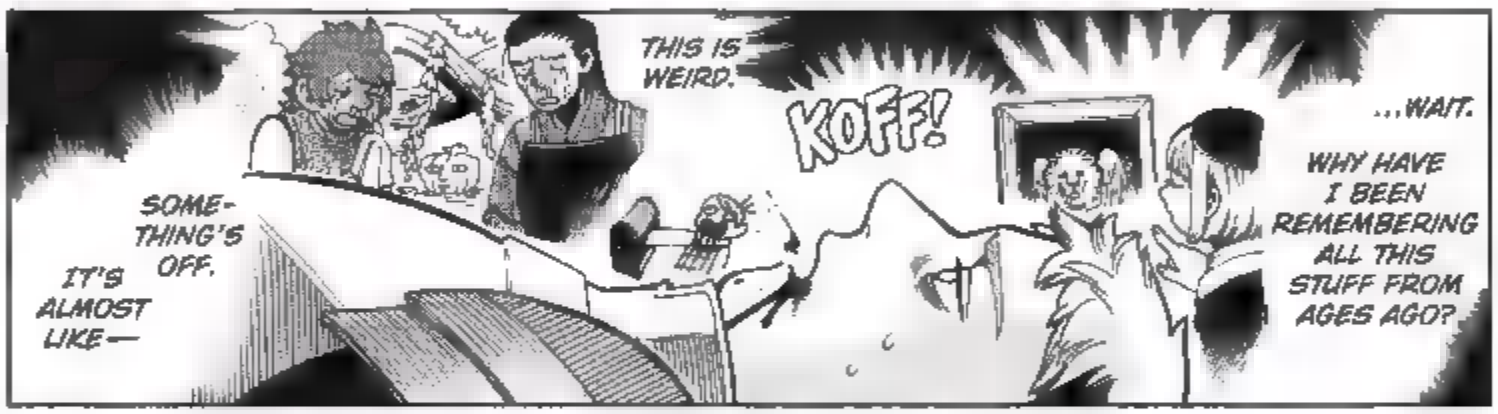
ぽかん
POKAN (STUNNED)
RUINS LEFT BY ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, MAGIC, AND MONSTERS ...
WE WANT TO SEE AND KNOW...
...THE UNKNOWN.
...WE WANT TO KNOW.
WE WANT TO SEE THINGS WE CAN'T SEE ON THE SURFACE.
LEARNING IS JUST PLAIN FUN.
MARCILLE.
THE REAL REASON WE SPEND TIME IN THE DUNGEON IS...

WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR LIKE-MINDED COMPANIONS.
WOULD YOU EXPLORE THE DUNGEON WITH US?


YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
THAT'S HOW SHE WAS AT FIRST.

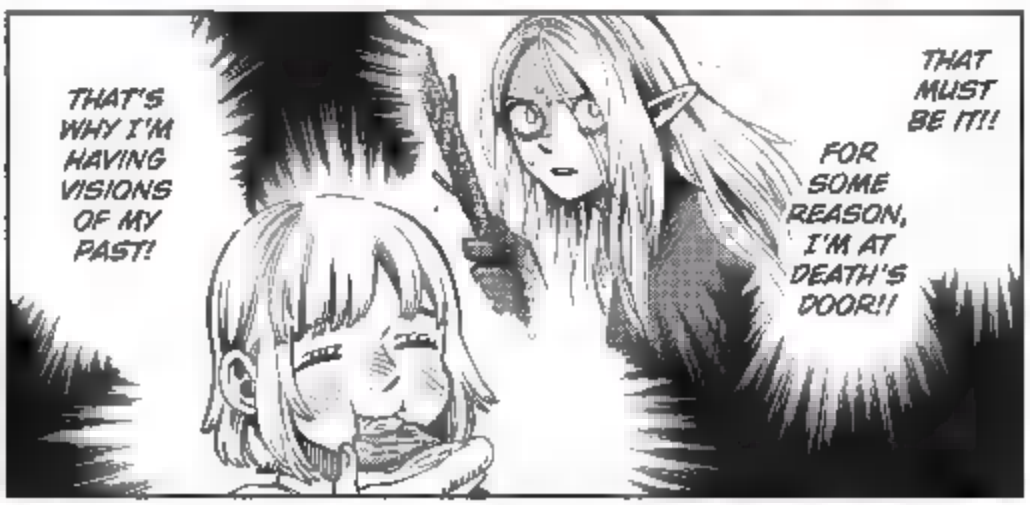


I WONDER WHAT MARCILLE'S DREAM IS.
IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR, BUT SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED...


THIS IS WEIRD.
KOFF!
...WAIT.
WHY HAVE I BEEN REMEMBERING ALL THIS STUFF FROM AGES AGO?
SOME-THING'S OFF.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE—

HAH!
MY LIFE IS FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES.

HOW DID I END UP LIKE THIS?
IF I'M GOING TO REMEMBER, I HAVE TO KEEP WATCHING.


THAT'S WHY I'M HAVING VISIONS OF MY PAST!
THAT MUST BE IT!!
FOR SOME REASON, I'M AT DEATH'S DOOR!!

FURTHER...

FURTHER...

AND THEN...

THAT'S RIGHT. WE DEFEATED THE BICORN.

I WANT TO BUTCHER THE BICORN. LET'S GET IT INSIDE.

IT'S DWARF SIZED.

OOH! WHAT A CUTE HOUSE.

ガチャ GACHA (KACHAK)

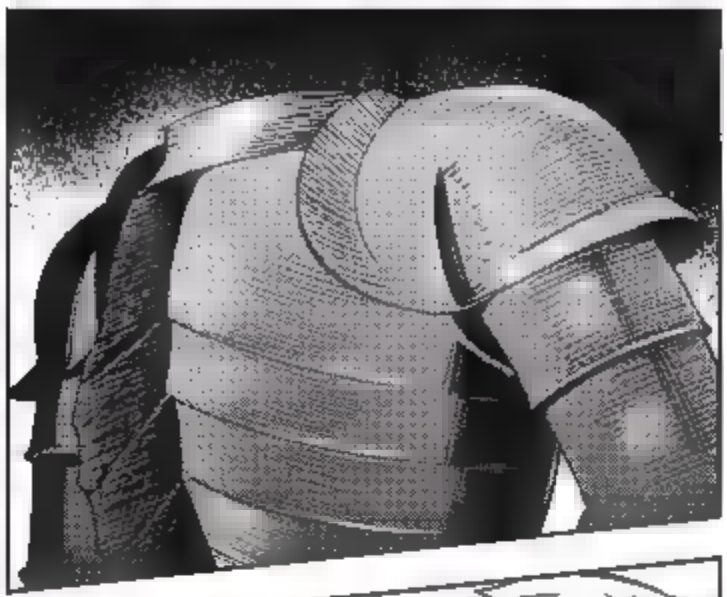
OH. I FORGOT.

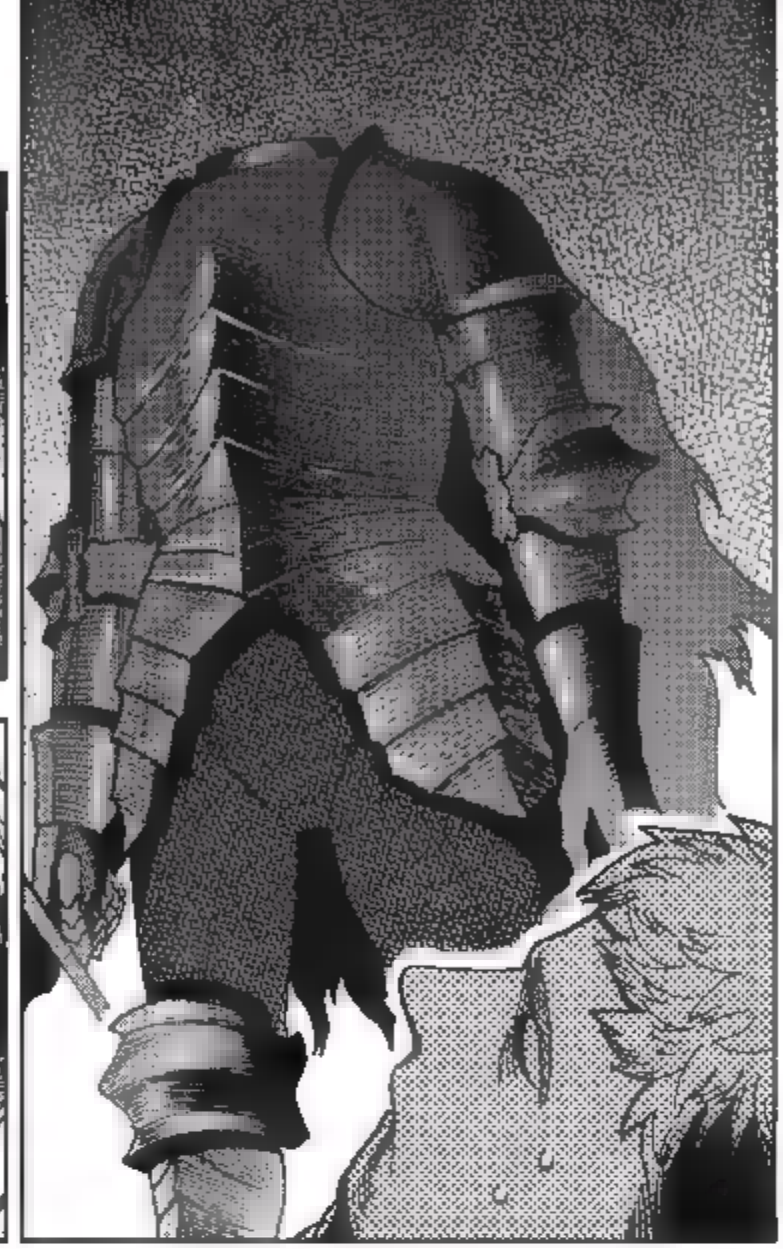
GOOD GRIEF.

WHEW.

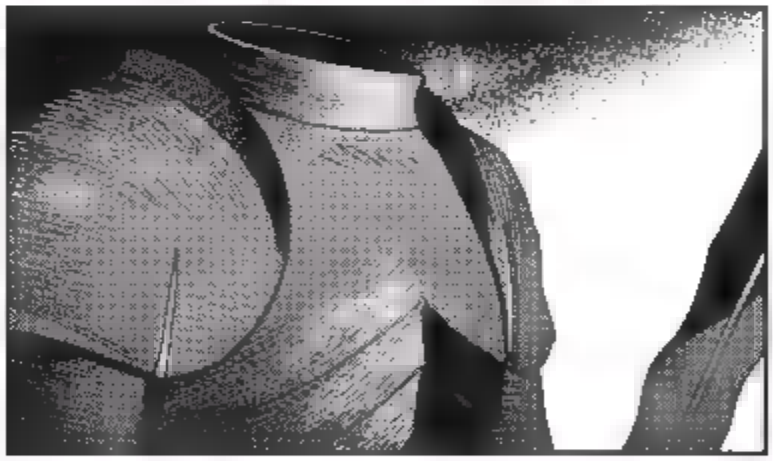
BUT...
THE DOOR.
A WHIP.
NO HEAD.
ARMOR.
...IT'S ON FOOT?

HUH!?
EVERY-BODY RUN!!
IT'S A SPIRIT! ATTACKING IT IS POINTLESS!
KA (SNAP)
G-GET AWAY—
RUN FOR ALL YOU'RE WORTH.
DAAA (DASH)
DON'T WOR—
OKAY!
I'LL BE FINE, SO...
GISHI (CREAK)
THAT WAS FAST.
HYUUU (HWOOO)
WELL, IT'S GOOD THEY'RE NOT HANGING AROUND, BUT...



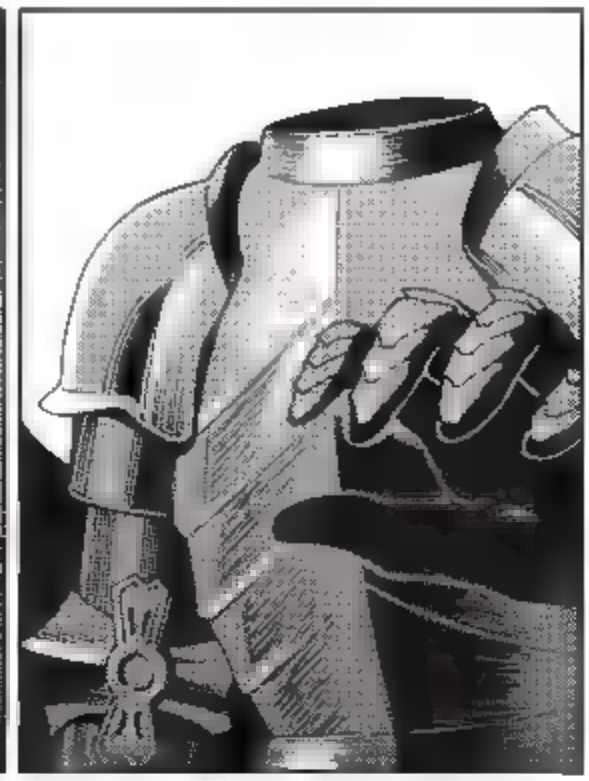


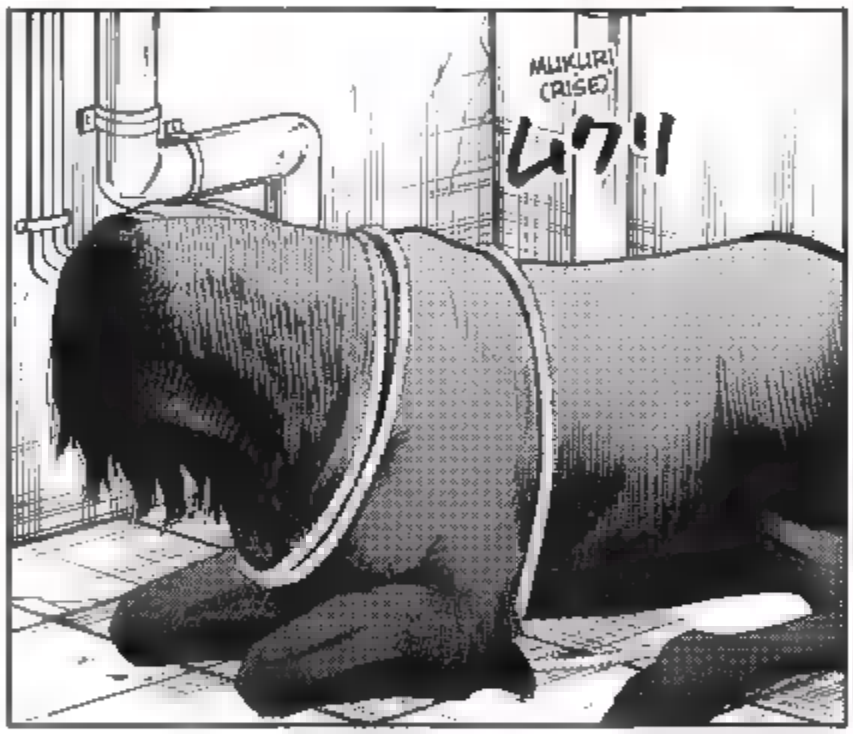
WANT TO MAKE A DEAL?
GUGU CSTRAIND

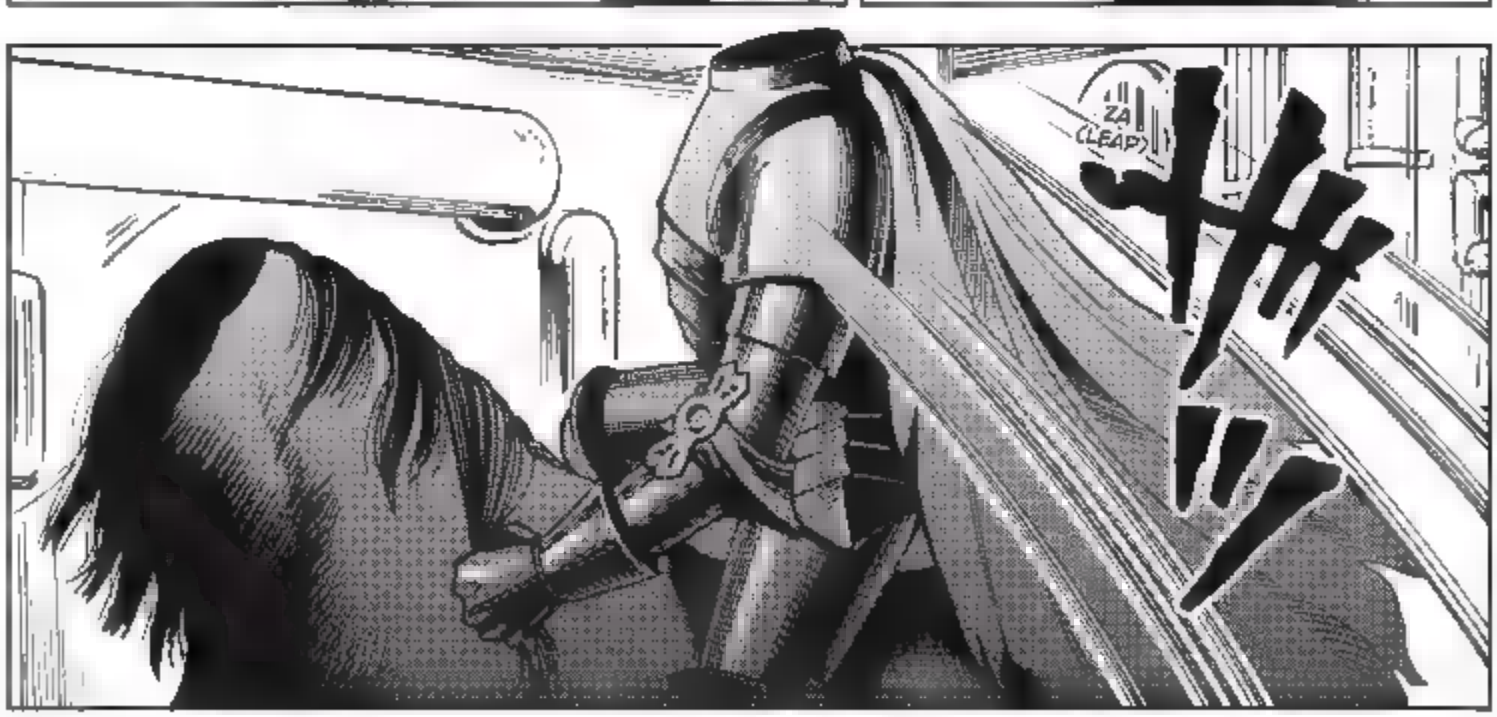


I HAVE SOMETHING I THINK YOU MAY LIKE.

IF YOU LET ME LIVE, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS.




MUKURI
(RISE)
ムクリ

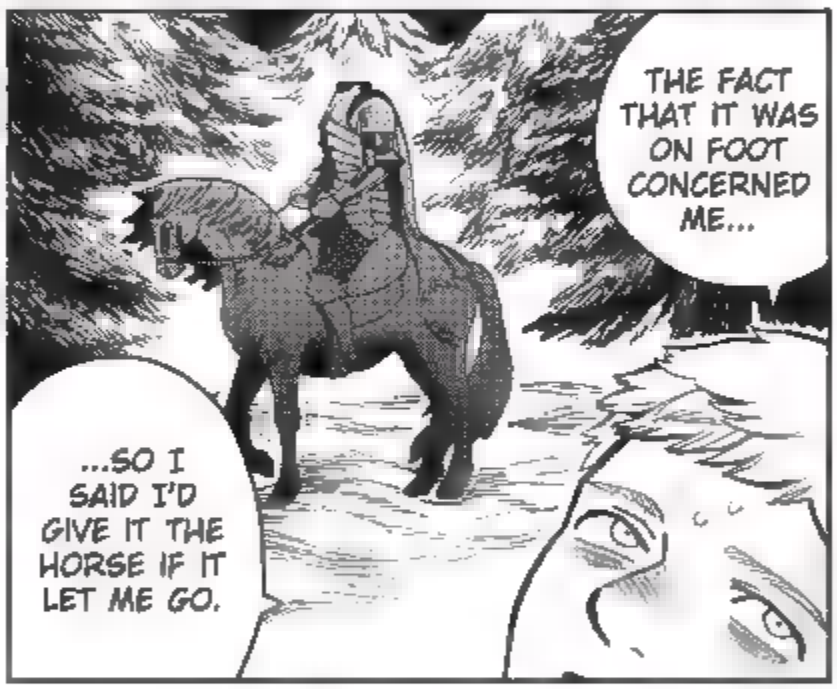

ZA
(LEAP)

GON
(CLONK)
ゴン
グワ
GUWA
(WHOOSH)
ワ
パッコ
PAKKO
ポコ
POKO
(KLOP)
パッコ
PAKKO
(CLOP)
パコ
PAKO
ポコ
POKO
ガン
GAN
(CLANG)
パコ
PAKO

THAT THING JUST RODE OFF ON A HORSE.
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?

OH! YOU'RE ALIVE.

バン!!
BAN (BAM)
LAIOS !?


THE FACT THAT IT WAS ON FOOT CONCERNED ME...
...SO I SAID I'D GIVE IT THE HORSE IF IT LET ME GO.

IT WAS A DULLAHAN.
THE DEATH-BRINGING GHOST OF A HEADLESS KNIGHT.

WE ALL WORKED HARD TO CATCH IT, THOUGH. I'M SORRY.
...HEH.

"HEH"?

AND IT ACCEPTED YOUR OFFER?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD PROBABLY LIKE IT.
THEY'RE BOTH DEAD AND HEADLESS.

GASHI (RUFFLED)
がし
GASHI
がし
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT!?
WE CAN CATCH ANOTHER ONE.
NOTHING'S BETTER THAN NOT DYING.

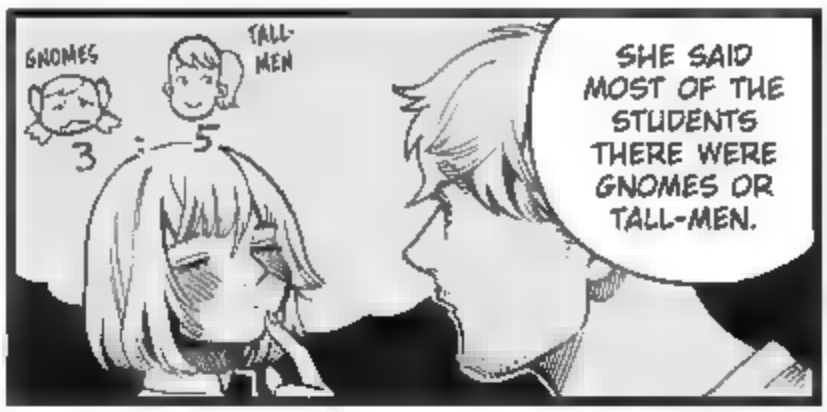
AH HA HA!

WOW. IT ONLY CUT YOUR BODY.
WHAT, HM?
HOW OLD ARE YOU, MARCILLE?

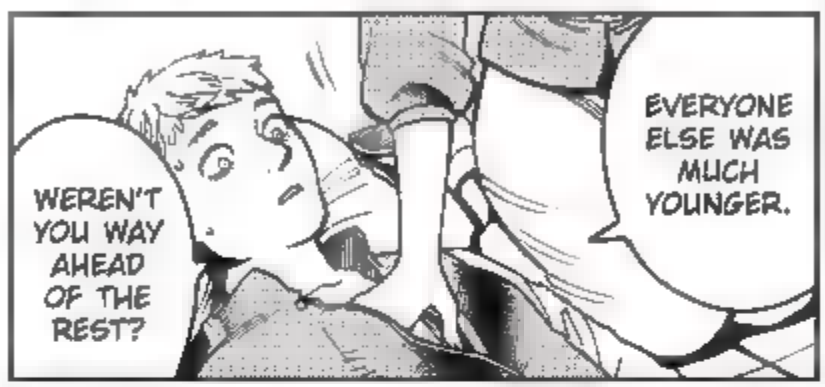
BY THE WAY, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

I WASN'T ASKING YOU TWO!
TWENTY THOUSAND.
TCH!

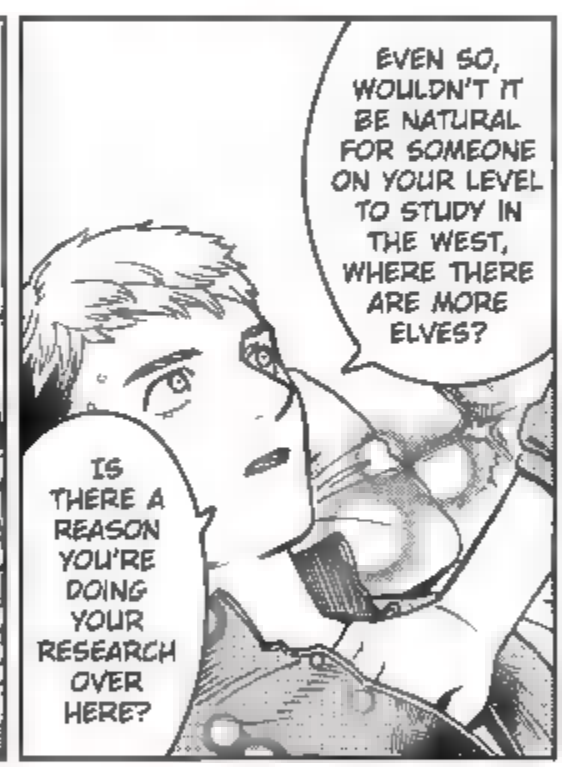
.....
HOW OLD DO I LOOK?
WHA...? WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?


GNOMES
TALL-MEN
3 : 5
SHE SAID MOST OF THE STUDENTS THERE WERE GNOMES OR TALL-MEN.

I FIGURED YOU WERE ABOUT A HUNDRED...
LOOKS TWENTY OR SO?
ELF LIFESPAN X FIVE TIMES AS LONG
...BUT THEN WHY WERE YOU AT THE SAME SCHOOL AS FALIN?


EVERYONE ELSE WAS MUCH YOUNGER.
WEREN'T YOU WAY AHEAD OF THE REST?

I WAS BORN HERE, SO I STAYED CLOSE TO HOME, THAT'S ALL.
I GO TO THE WEST SOMETIMES TOO.
ALL DONE.

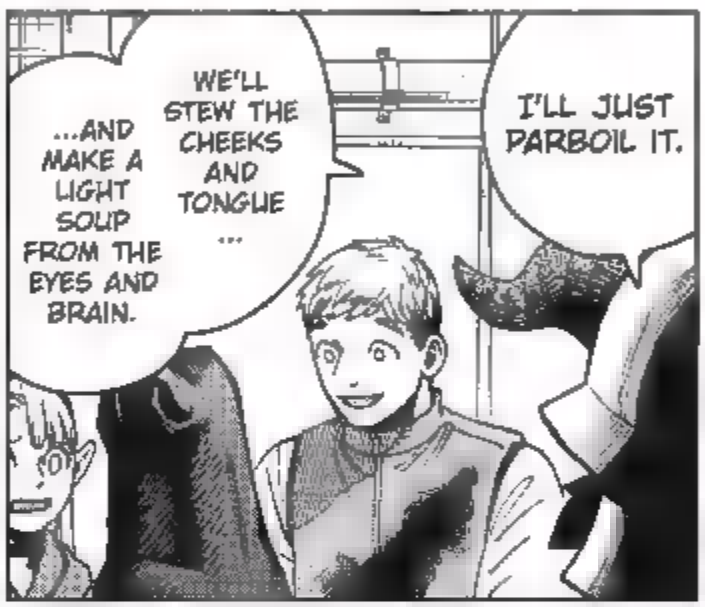

EVEN SO, WOULDN'T IT BE NATURAL FOR SOMEONE ON YOUR LEVEL TO STUDY IN THE WEST, WHERE THERE ARE MORE ELVES?
IS THERE A REASON YOU'RE DOING YOUR RESEARCH OVER HERE?

I WAS A RESEARCH-ER, NOT A PUPIL.
IS IT THAT WEIRD?
I'M ALSO DOING WORK THE SCHOOL FOUND FOR ME.

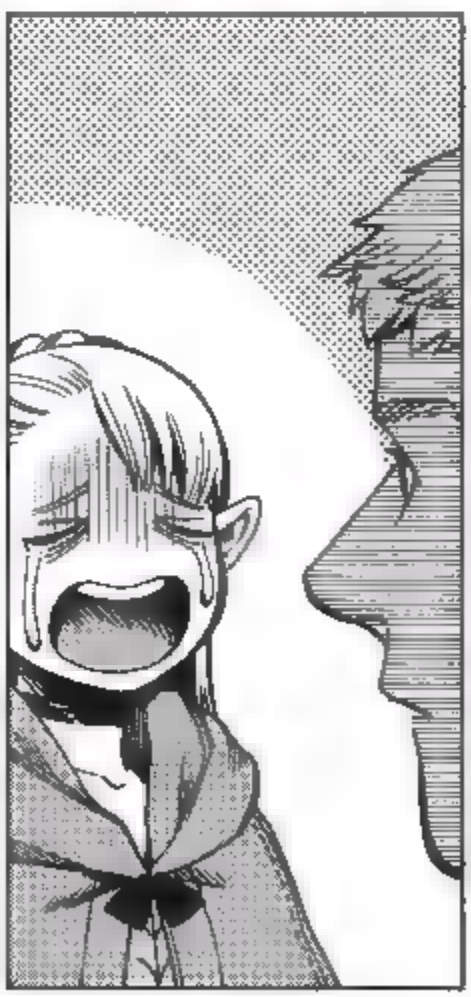
IT LEFT US SOME-THING GOOD!!
WE'LL HAVE IT FOR DINNER TONIGHT !!

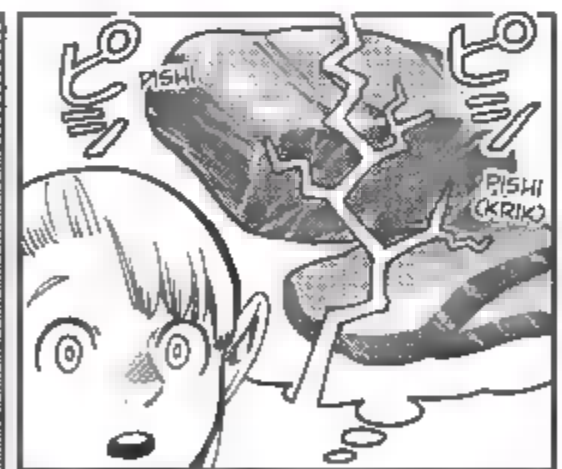
LAIOS, GREAT NEWS!!
...YES.
REALLY...?
BAN CBAND

THE DULLAHAN LEFT IT BEHIND.
WHOA! THE BICORN'S HEAD!!


...AND MAKE A LIGHT SOUP FROM THE EYES AND BRAIN.
WE'LL STEW THE CHEEKS AND TONGUE ...
I'LL JUST PARBOIL IT.

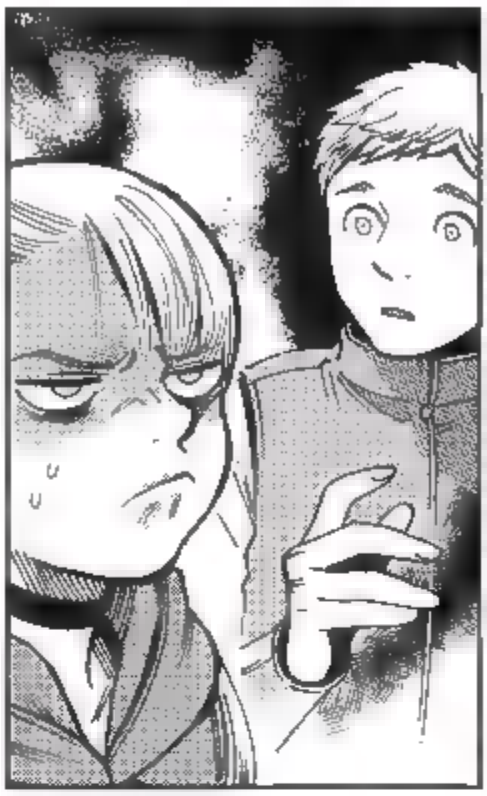
(FUTURE) STEWED DULLAHAN'S HORSE'S HEAD

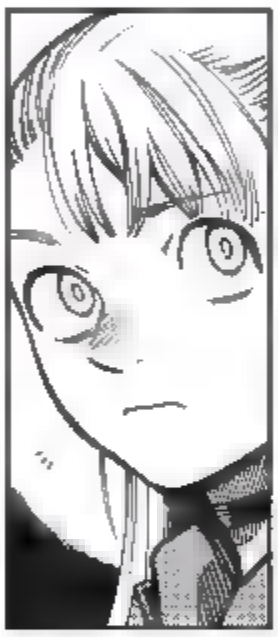



PISHI
PISHI (KRIK)

GARA
GARA (CRUMBLE)

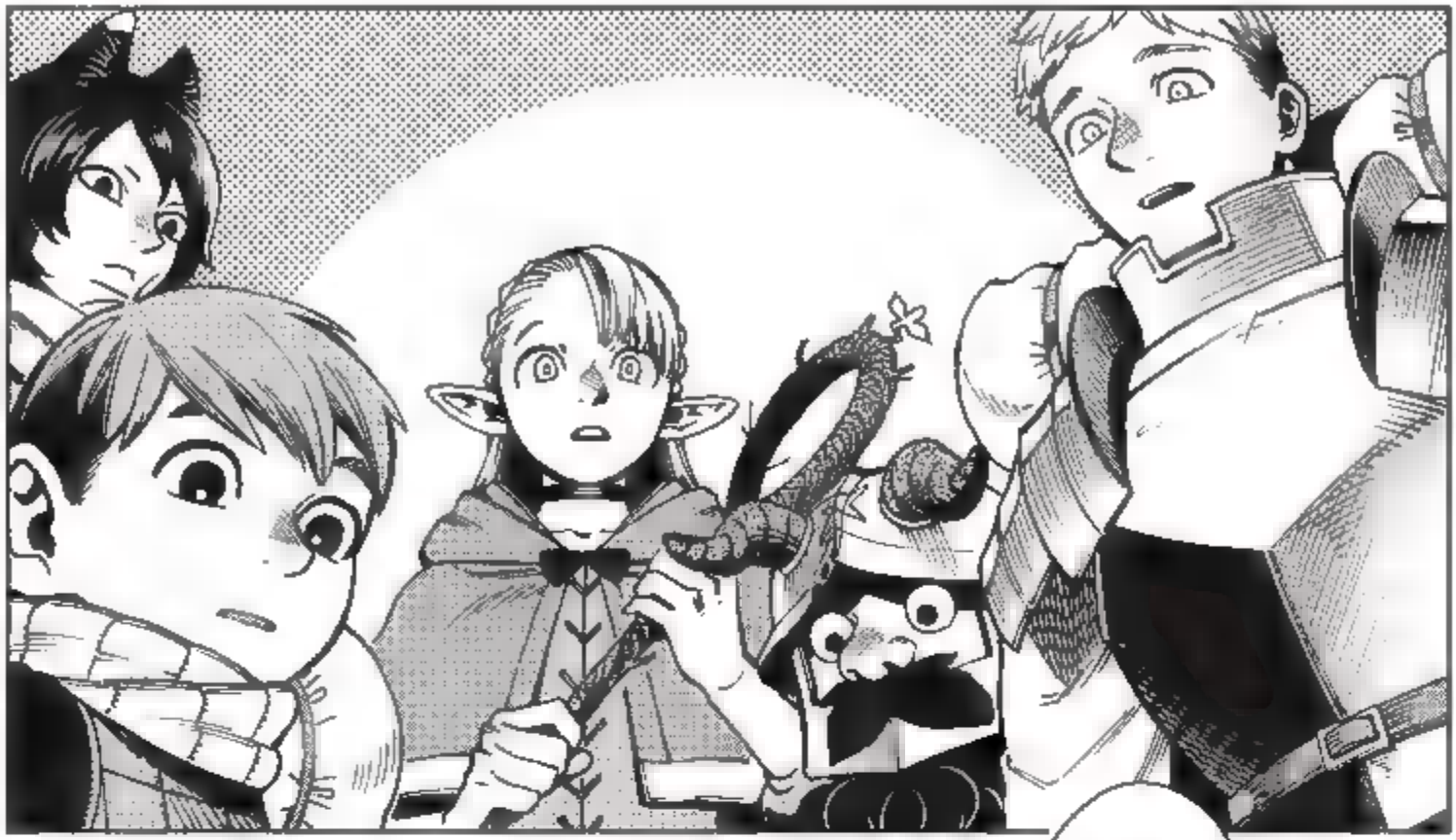
THE EYES AND BRAIN!?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER INGREDIENTS RIGHT NOW.

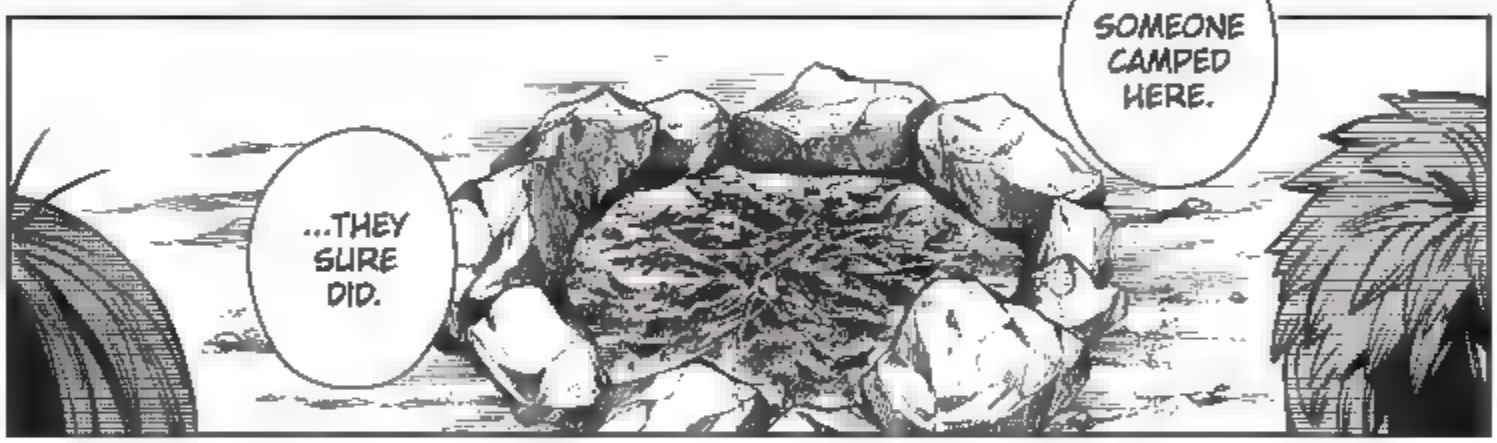


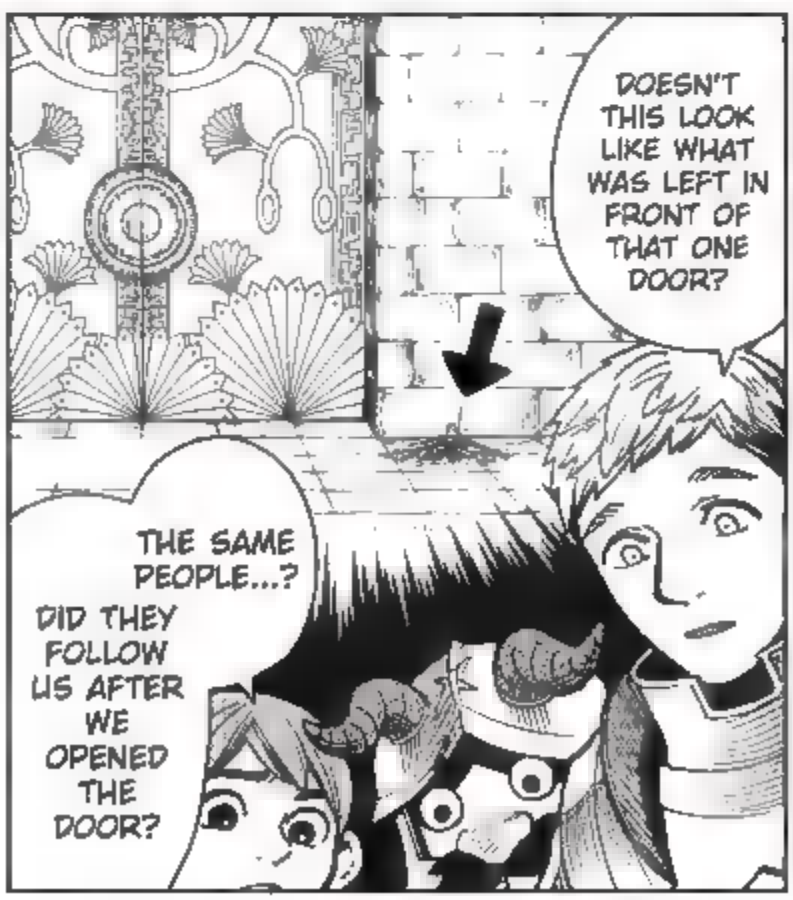


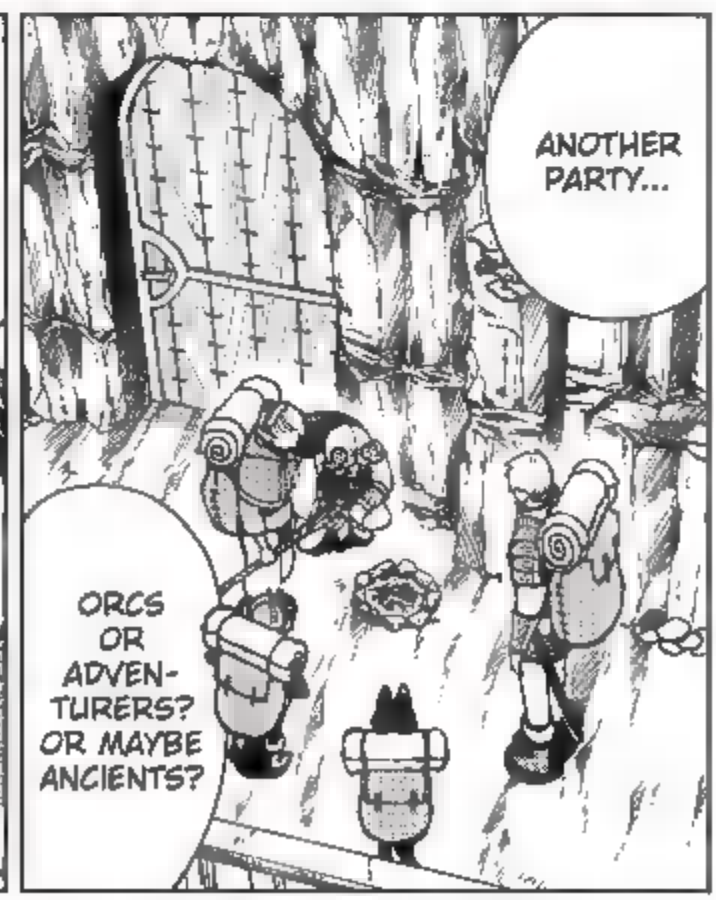
CHAPTER 57: THE END

58. SUCCUBUS -1-



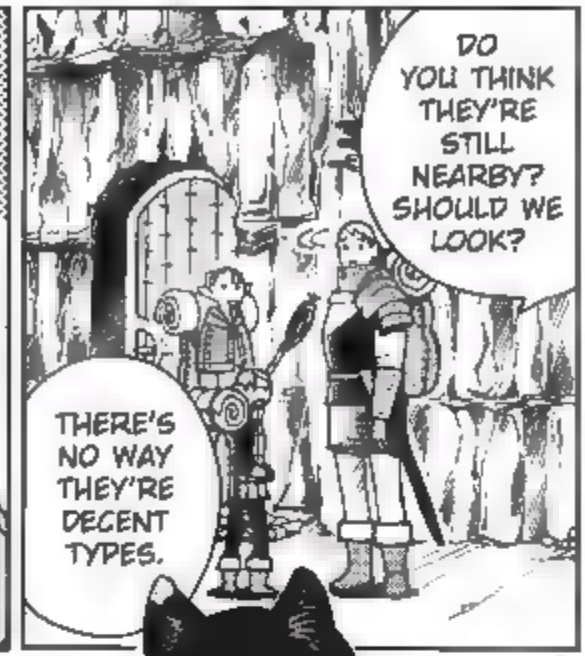

SOMEONE CAMPED HERE.
...THEY SURE DID.

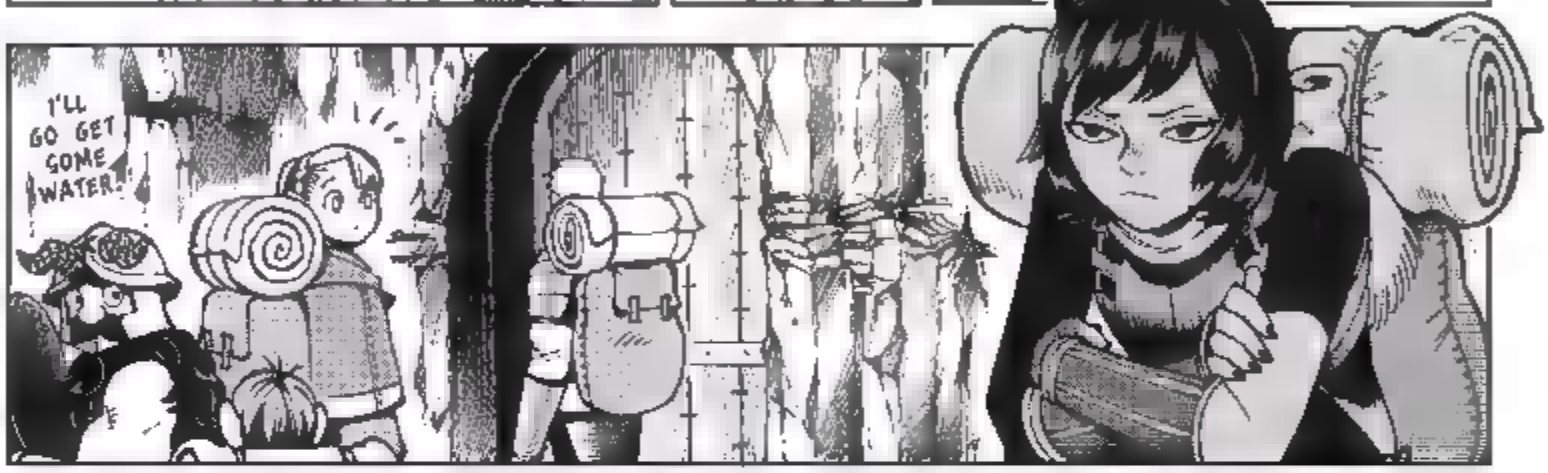

DOESN'T THIS LOOK LIKE WHAT WAS LEFT IN FRONT OF THAT ONE DOOR?
THE SAME PEOPLE...?
DID THEY FOLLOW US AFTER WE OPENED THE DOOR?

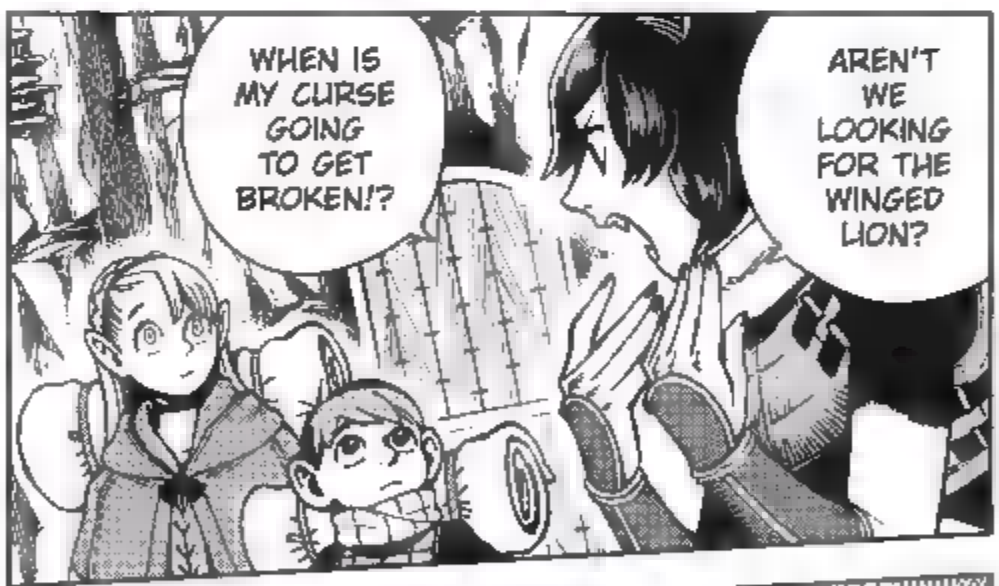

ANOTHER PARTY...
ORCS OR ADVEN-TURERS? OR MAYBE ANCIENTS?

I'M WORN OUT.
CAN WE REST BEFORE WE THINK ABOUT IT?
I GUESS WE CAN DO THAT.

YAWN...


DO YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL NEARBY? SHOULD WE LOOK?
THERE'S NO WAY THEY'RE DECENT TYPES.


I'LL GO GET SOME WATER!


WHEN IS MY CURSE GOING TO GET BROKEN!?
AREN'T WE LOOKING FOR THE WINGED LION?

HAAAH...
IZUTSUMI...
IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT YOU, ISN'T IT.

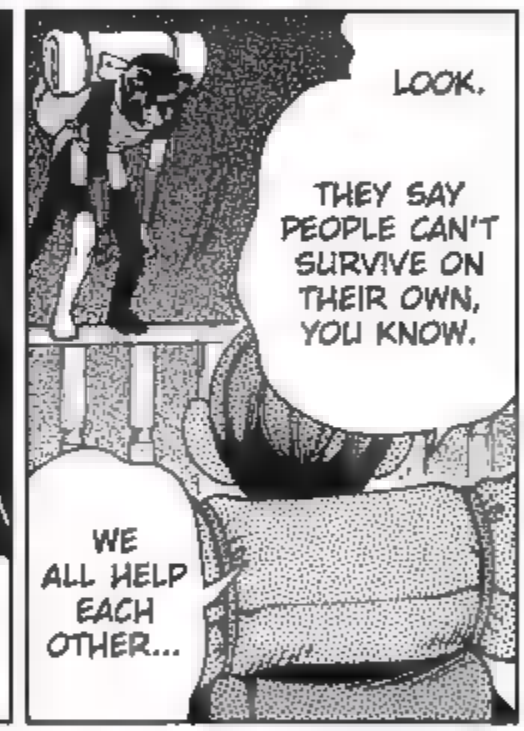
EAT, REST, EAT AGAIN...
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE US TO REACH THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON THIS WAY?

OH? AM I NOT?

TRY THINKING ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE FOR CHANGE.
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE AN ISLAND OR SOME-THING?

EVEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO RAISED YOU.
DO NOT.
YES, YOU DO!!

I'VE ALWAYS LIVED ON MY OWN.


LOOK.
THEY SAY PEOPLE CAN'T SURVIVE ON THEIR OWN, YOU KNOW.
WE ALL HELP EACH OTHER...

HAAH...
...THEN WHY ARE YOU HANGING AROUND WITH US?

BECAUSE YOU SAID THE WINGED WHATEVER OR THE LUNATIC WHOSIT MIGHT BE ABLE TO MY CURSE.

I'VE ALWAYS LIVED ON MY OWN...
...AND I ALWAYS WILL!
NO, I DON'T!

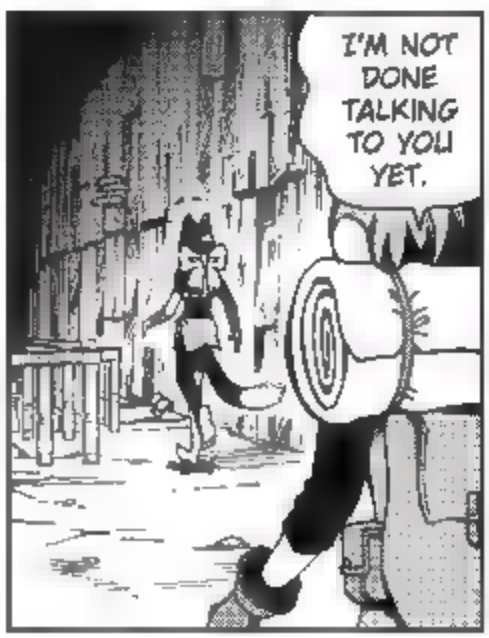
...TRUE.

!
THAT WOULD [redacted] WAY FASTER.
SO GO FIND THEM ON YOUR OWN.

UH, NOT REALLY.

"WHY"...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEED OUR HELP, RIGHT?

HUH?
...SO WHY IS IT THAT YOU'RE GOING AROUND WITH US INSTEAD?

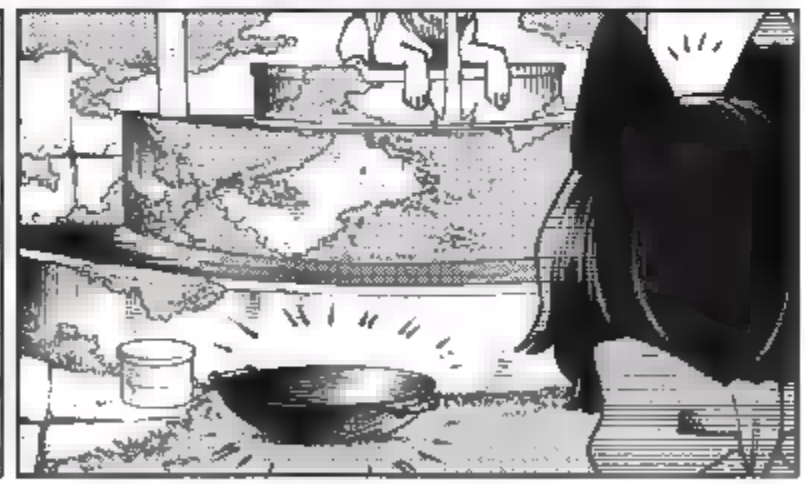

I'M NOT DONE TALKING TO YOU YET.

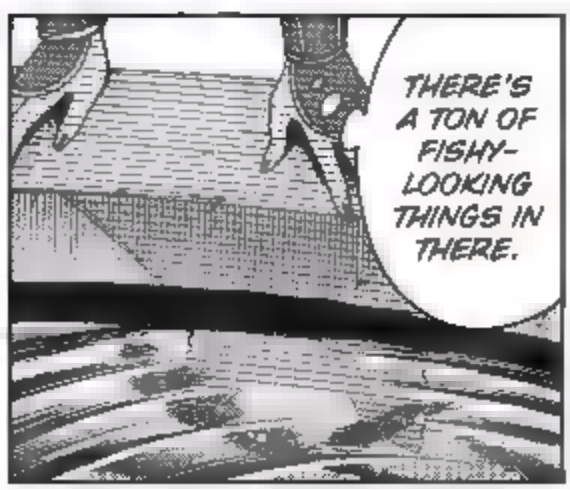
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, IZUTSU-MI?
TO FIND SENSHI.

SUTAN (TMP)
スタ

HMPH.

WHINY LITTLE GUY.





SENSHIIII!!?

KASAA (RUSTLE)

ナサリ…

WHAT?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT'S THAT?

HUH? YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT SUCCUBI?

A SUCCUBUS!?

...THIS MAY BE THE WORK OF A SUCCUBUS.

THAT GAUNT BODY.

THAT LOOK OF ECSTASY.

Succubus Potion

Compounded from refined succubus secretions. Sells for a bundle.

THEY SECRETE A FLUID THAT CAUSES INTENSE PLEASURE, AND SO...

...THEY TEND TO BE OVER-HUNTED FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SELL IT.

...AND DRAIN THEIR LIFE FORCE.

UHH...

THEY'RE MONSTERS WHO ASSUME AN "ALLURING SHAPE," GET CLOSE TO THEIR PREY...

LIFE FORCE?

NO, YOU'D NEVER BEAT THEM ONE-ON-ONE!
EVERYONE BE CAREFUL NOT TO GO OFF ON YOUR OWN.

I THOUGHT THEY'D DIED OUT IN THIS DUNGEON TOO.
HUH. THEY SOUND KINDA WEAK.

ISN'T THAT JUST A SUPERSTITION?

IF WE PUT SOME BY OUR PILLOWS, WE CAN KEEP THEM FROM ATTACKING US!
SUCCUBI LOVE MILK!

OH, RIGHT! MILK!

LAIOS!

IF YOU NOTICED THAT, THEN STOP HIM!!
WELL, HE WAS JUST SO CONFIDENT ABOUT IT.

AH!?
IS IT OKAY FOR HIM TO GO OFF ON HIS OWN?

BAAAN—
(BAAAM)

AAAH!!

BOTH THEIR BODIES ARE EMPTY.

IF I CAST A RECOVERY SPELL ON THEM...

...THE BURDEN WOULD BE TOO GREAT. THEY MIGHT DIE.

YOU IDIOT...!

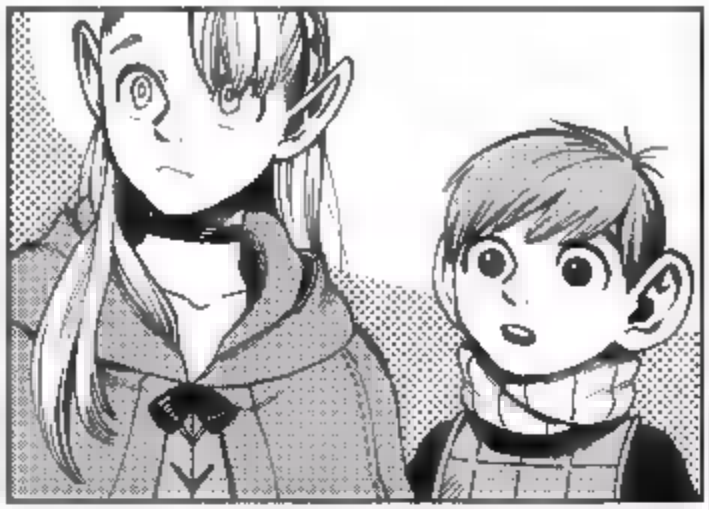
YOU CAN FIX HIM WITH MAGIC, RIGHT?

ANOTHER DELAY!?

.....

LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM WITH WATER AND FIX SOMETHING THAT'LL GO DOWN EASY—

WE NEED TO GIVE THEM NUTRIENTS GRADUALLY AND LET THEM RECOVER.

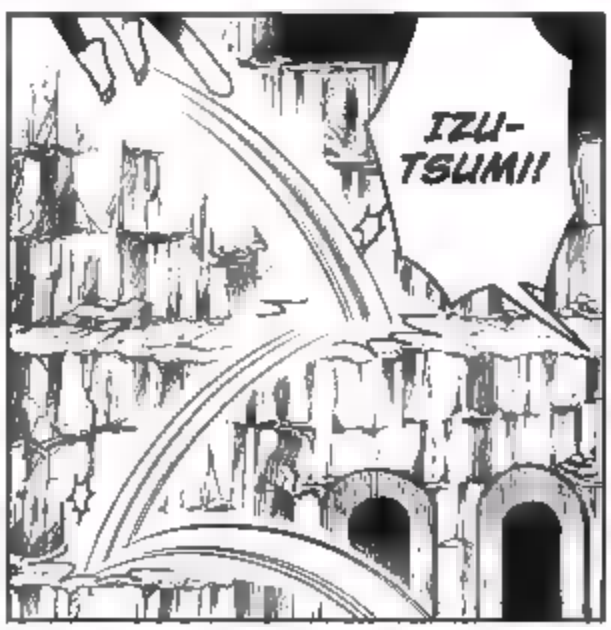


THOSE SUCCUBUS-THINGIES. THE MONSTERS.
I'LL GO BEAT THEM FOR YOU!

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO BEAT THEM ALONE!
WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING!?

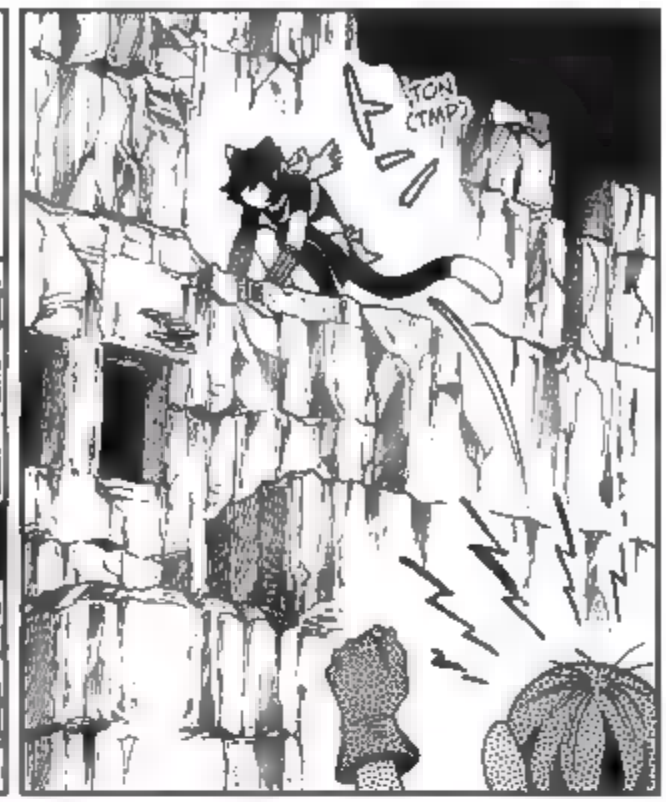
I DON'T WANT ANYBODY, SO I'LL BE FINE.
NO, SERI-OUSLY!

THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T HUNT SUCCUBI UNLESS THERE ARE TWO OR MORE OF YOU.
THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU DESIRE THAT YOUR LEGS GO WEAK.
AND THAT'S NOT A FIGURE OF SPEECH.
THE REST TAKE THEM OUT.


IZU-TSUMI!

I MEAN IT! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THAT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU'RE LIKE.
...YOU'VE BEEN THERE?
THEY READ YOUR SUBCON-SCIOUS, THINGS EVEN YOU CAN'T KNOW.

IZU-TSUMI...
...HAS HAD THIS BODY FOR AS LONG AS SHE COULD REMEMBER...
...BEING SHUFFLED FROM OWNER TO OWNER AND PLACE TO PLACE AS A SIDESHOW FREAK.


(TON)
(TMP)

CAN YOU CALL SHOVING FOOD INTO A CAGE EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
...“RAISING” SOMEONE?

IRA
IRA
(IRIK)
EVEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO RAISED YOU.
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU KNOW.

MORON!
...SHE CERTAINLY DIDN'T FEEL SHE OWED THEM ANYTHING.

USE YOUR CHOPSTICKS!

IN THE END, SHURO'S FATHER BOUGHT IZUTSUMI ...
...AND MAIZURU DRILLED BASIC MANNERS INTO HER. HOW-EVER...

SUSUN
すすん
SUN
すん
SUN
すん
A SWEET SMELL ...
IS THIS FROM THOSE SUCCUBI-THINGS?
THERE'S A MIXTURE OF OLD AND NEW SMELLS.

SUN (SNIFF)
すん

I DUNNO WHAT THEY ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE...
...BUT THEY CAN'T HUNT PREY WITHOUT USING THEIR TRICK.
THEY'VE GOTTA BE REALLY WEAK AND UGLY.

"THEY LOOK SO MUCH LIKE WHAT YOU DESIRE THAT YOUR LEGS GO WEAK," HUH?
IN THAT CASE, I JUST HAVE TO SNEAK UP CLOSE TO THEM...
...AND KILL THEM BEFORE THEY TRANS-FORM.

THAT VOICE...
CHIL-CHUCK !?

ビクッ
BIKU (FLINCH)
AAAAH!

TCH!

WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

WEREN'T THEY SUPPOSED TO BE FINE IF THERE WERE TWO OF THEM?

THAT'S NOT JUST ONE OF 'EM.

THEY'RE ALSO CAREFUL AND PERSISTENT.

THERE'S NO WAY THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED ME.

UU!

FROM OVER THERE...

...AND OVER HERE !?

THAT SCENT AGAIN.

TON (TMP)

TON

CHIL-CHUCK.

MAR-CILLE...

SFX: KYORO (GLANCE) KYORO

IT SOUNDS LIKE SHE'S HAD A HARD LIFE.

TOPO (GLUP)

BLAST THAT IZUTSUMI. HOW SELFISH CAN SHE GET?

W-WELL...

THERE'S NO HELP FOR THAT...

THAT'S DEFINITELY A SUCCUBUS.

WHAT!?

ジリ (GL-GLARE)

...NO.

READY YOUR WEAPON, MARCILLE.

DO YOU SMELL SOMETHING SWEET?

KUN (SNIFF)

IT'S JUST PORRIDGE.

GOT IT?

O-OKAY.

WHEN ONE OF US GETS CHARMED...

...THE ONE WHO'S STILL MOBILE KILLS THE SUCCUBUS.

LISTEN UP.

ONCE YOU SEE THEM, YOU'LL FREEZE UP FAST.

BA (FWIP)

AH HA HA...

HEE HEE HEE...

ZOKU ZOKU (SHUDDER)

BUWA (SHIVER)
AH...
UU!
BON (BOOMF)
HEH HEH...
NOW WE CAN RELAX A BIT.
PHEW...
THANK GOOD-NESS.
YEAH...
Y...
CHIL-CHUCK!
ARE YOU OKAY!?

AH HA HA HA HA!

THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM!?

HEE HEE!

UU FU FU...

GYA HA HA HA HA!

YOU'RE KIDDING ...

A-ALL RIGHT!

I'LL TAKE OUT THE SUCCUBI THAT TARGET YOU.

YOU TAKE OUT THE ONES THAT TARGET ME.

ZOWA

ZOWA (SHIVER)

C-CALM DOWN.

IF WE HANDLE THEM LIKE THAT FIRST ONE, WE'LL BE FINE!

HYA HA!

BA (LUNGE)

IS YOUR WIFE A BLONDE TOO?

THEY ALL SEEM TO BE BLONDES.

SHUT UP! JUST DROP IT!

BO

BO

BO (BOOMF)

IF WE KEEP THIS UP, THOUGH...

...WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEAT...

PAKARA

PAKA

...THEM...

PAKARA (CLIP-CLOP)

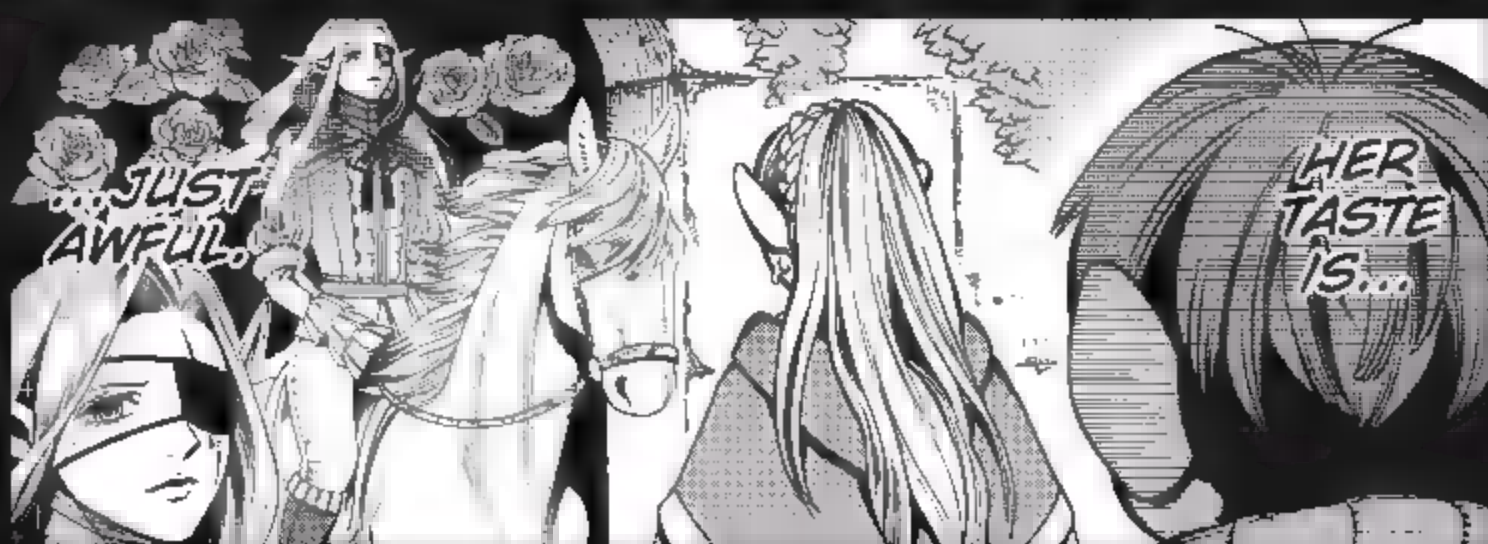
PAKARA (CLIP-CLOP)

死

PAKA

PAKA

EYEPATCH: DEATH



SA SA SA
SA (VWIP)
OH. CRUD.

WHMMMMM...
WHMMMMM...
BWA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA!

PFFT!

BA (FWP)
AAAAH!
AH!
DYULU
AH!
DYURU
DYURU (SLURP)

CHU (SMOOCH)

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH YOU...?
SU (SHF)
COME. LET'S RETURN.

PRIN-CESS...
HAA...
YOU STOLE OUT OF THE CASTLE AGAIN.

IZ-
IZUTSU-MI...
HAA!
HAFF!
LISTEN.

—AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

IF WE ALL DIE HERE, NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RESURRECT US.
GO GET HELP.
PLEASE...!

RUN AWAY, RIGHT NOW.
NO ONE COULD BEAT A HORDE LIKE THAT ON THEIR OWN.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THE SUCCUBI DIDN'T GET THEM TOO!?
HEY!
.....

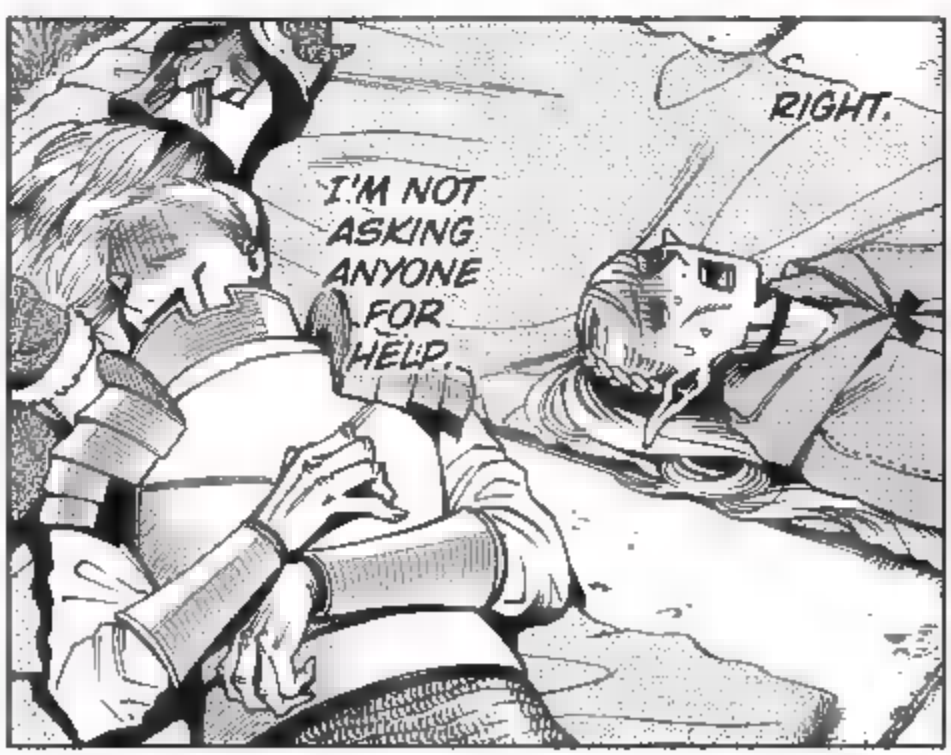
HELP!? WHERE WOULD I FIND HELP DOWN HERE!?
TH-THE PEOPLE FROM THAT CAMPSITE... MAYBE...

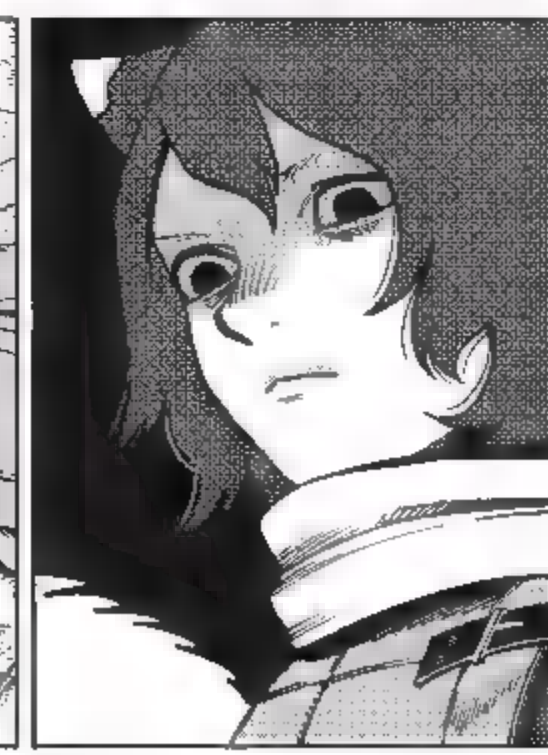
I SWEAR, I REALLY SHOULD.
I DON'T NEED YOU PEOPLE.

WHY ARE YOU GOING AROUND WITH US, THEN?
GO FIND THEM ON YOUR OWN. THAT WOULD BE FASTER.

IDIOTS!
DOSUN (WHMP)
ゴスッ
YOU CALL THIS "HELPING EACH OTHER"?

NOBODY HELPED ME.
I SURVIVED ON MY OWN ALL THIS TIME.
TAKING HELP NOW WOULD BE...

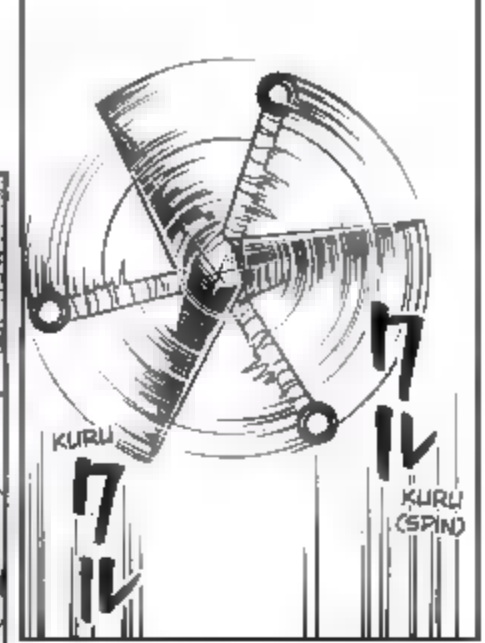

RIGHT.
I'M NOT ASKING ANYONE FOR HELP.



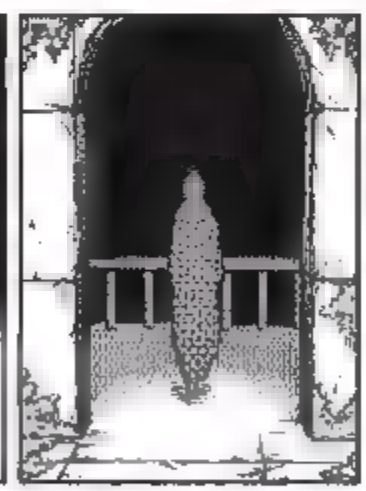
Chapter 58: The End

59. SUCCUBUS -2-

HURRY UP AND BRING IT.


KURU
クル
KURU (SPIN)

PASHI (SNATCH)
WHAT'S WRONG, SUCCUBI?



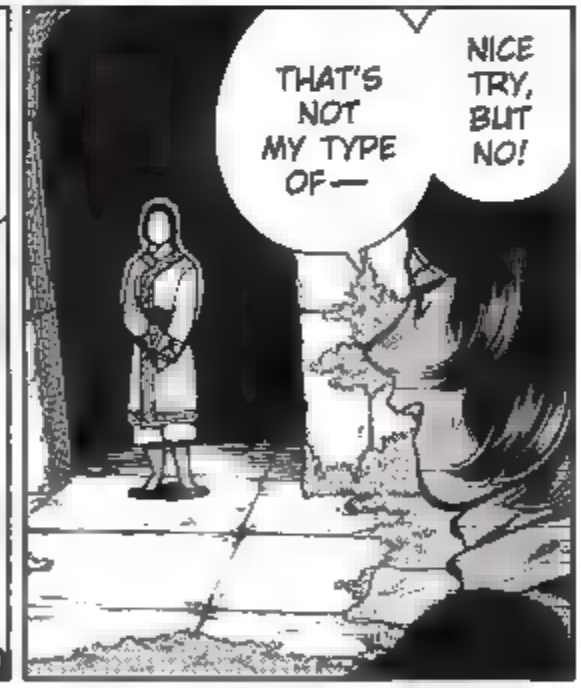
SQUINT...
I JUST HAVE TO KEEP FROM LOOKING STRAIGHT AT THEM.
IF ALL THEY DO IS LUNGE AT ME, I CAN WIN WITH MY EYES SHUT.

IZUTSUMI.
ギョッ
GYO (JOLT)

TCH!
DAMMIT! I LOOKED.
BUT...

MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN.

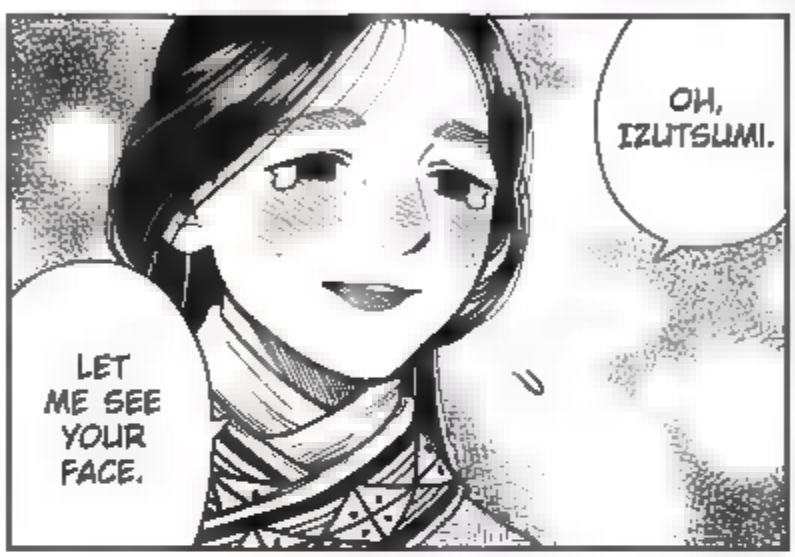
IZU-TSUMI.

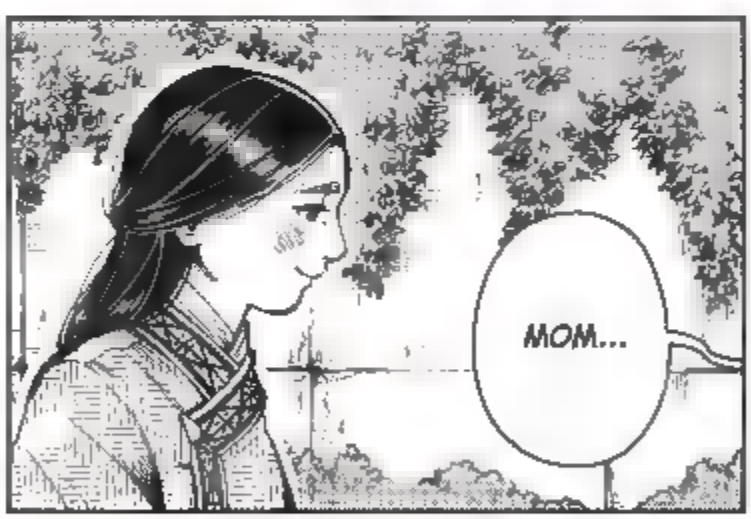

THAT'S NOT MY TYPE OF—
NICE TRY, BUT NO!

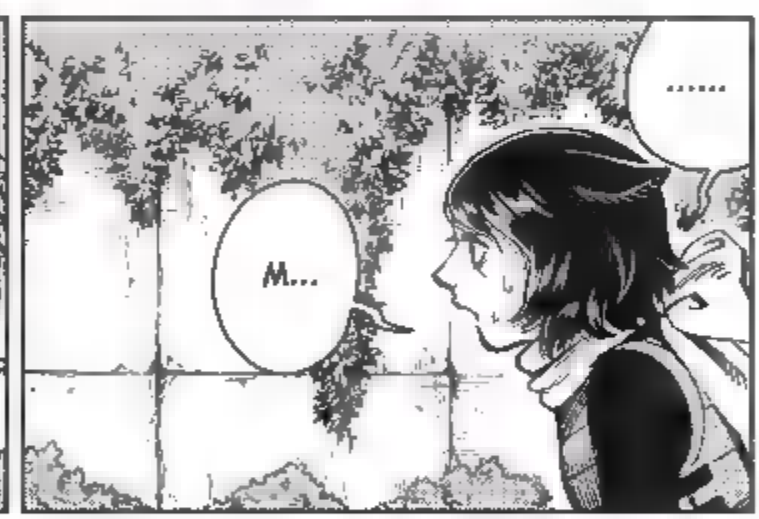
カラン
KARAN (CLANG)

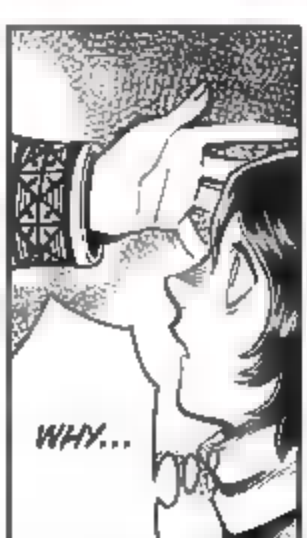
ZOWA (SHUDDER)

WHY?
WHY?
WHY?


OH, IZUTSUMI.
LET ME SEE YOUR FACE.


MOM...


.....
M...


WHY...

WHY AM I SO HAPPY?
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER MY MOTHER, BUT I KNOW THIS IS HER! WHY!?

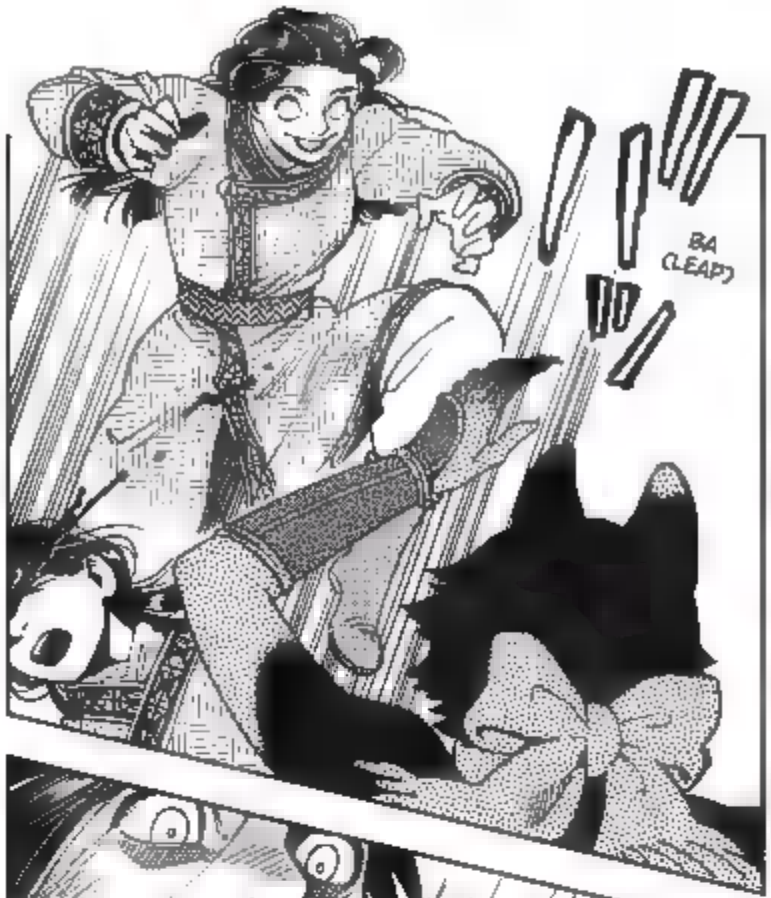
WHY?

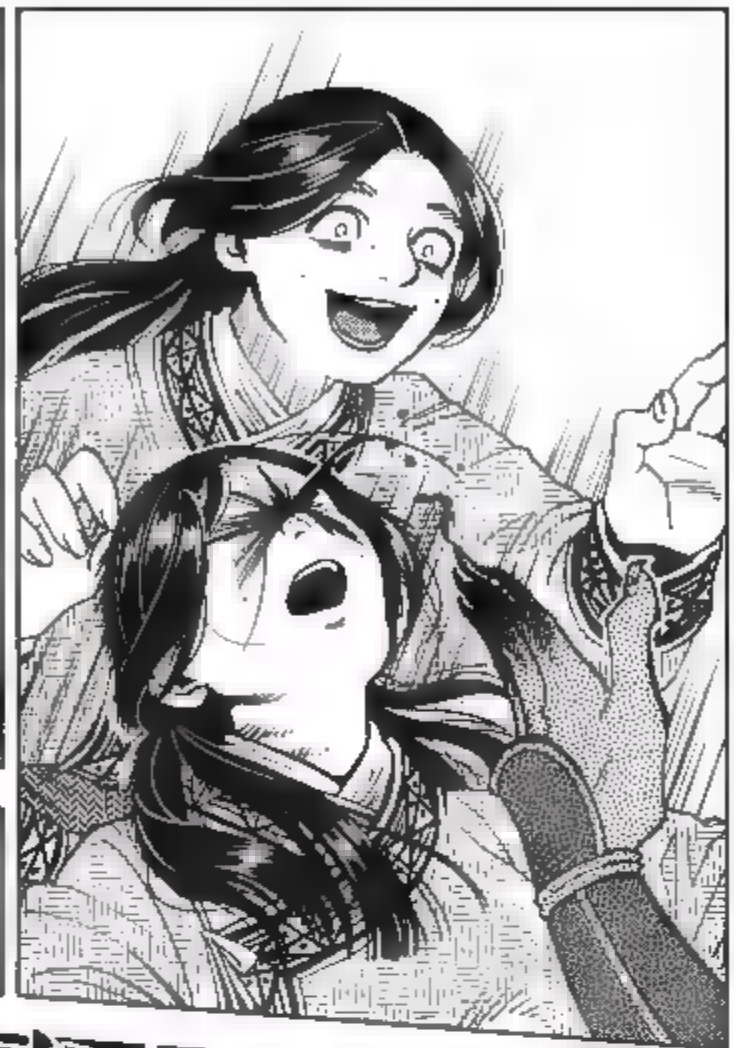
DO (SHOONK)
GURI (TWIST)
DO
(TON (TAP)

SAAA (PALE)
COULD IT BE...
...BECAUSE I'VE GOT A MONSTER SOUL MIXED INTO ME?
DO I... NOT HAVE A HEART!?

AREN'T I SUPPOSED TO FREEZE UP!?
GUSHA (SPLIT)
WHY CAN I KILL HER LIKE THAT'S NORMAL!?

NU (LOOM)
MY CHILD.
ZORO (SWARM)
ZORO
MY BABY.
ZORO
IZU-TSUMI.
COME TO ME.
ZORO
WAAH!
DOSU (SHUNK)
IS THAT THE ONLY TRICK YOU KNOW!?


BA
(LEAP)



ナッ
NU

BUCHI
(SNAP)
BUCHI
BUCHI

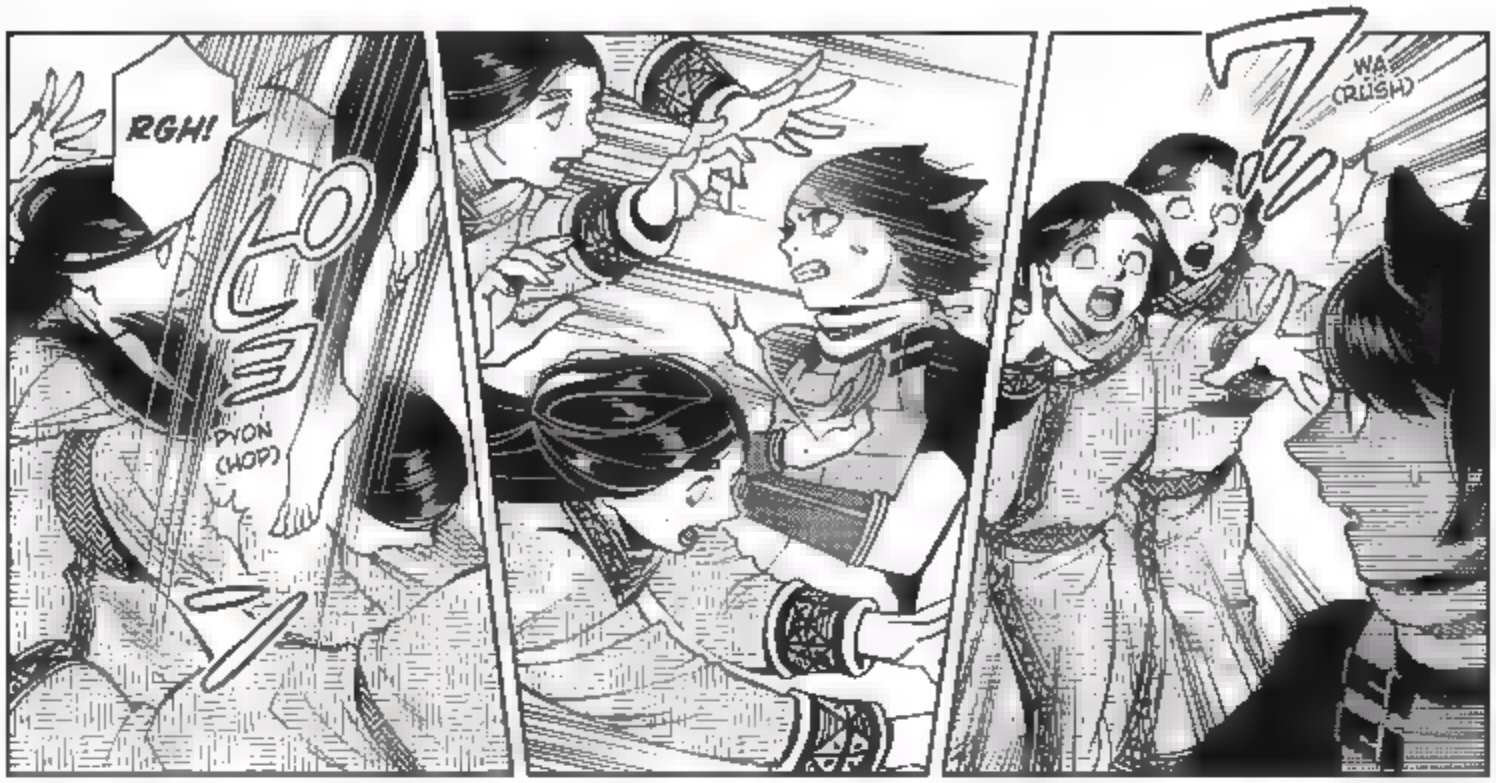
GIRI
GIRI
(STRAIN)
GHK!

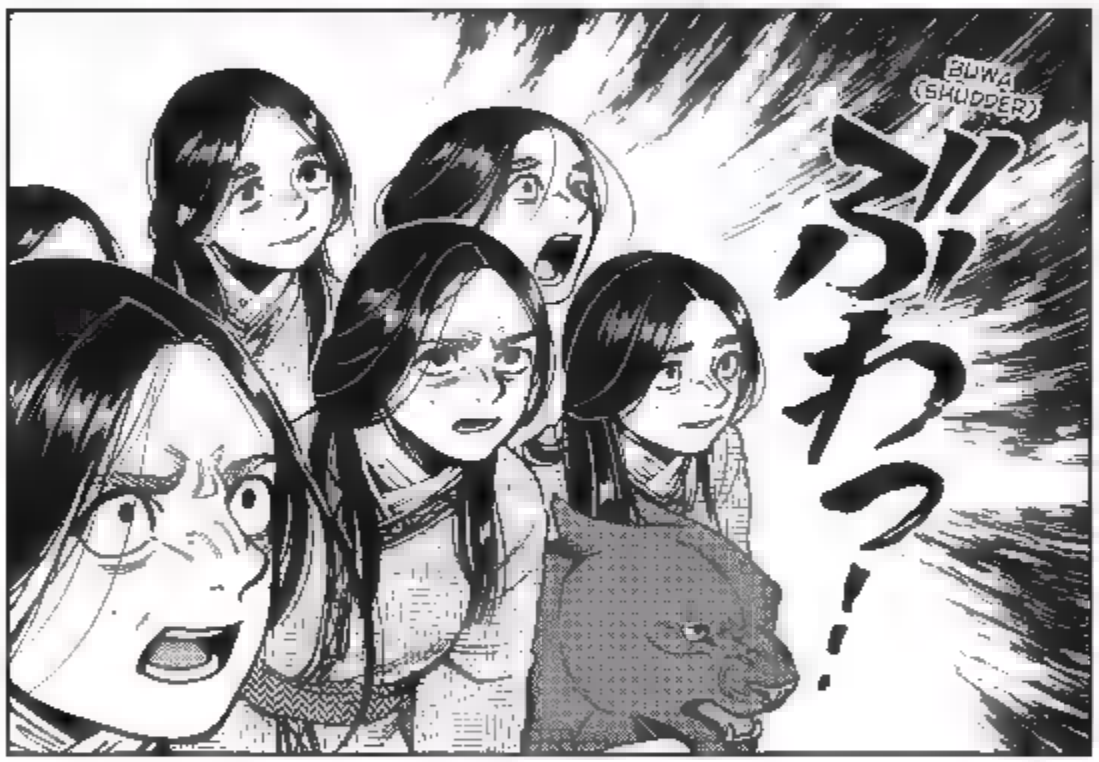
GA
(GRAB)

GRR
HM?

THE SPOTS WHERE THE FLUID SPLASHED ARE HOT.
THEY'RE WEAK... BUT THOSE NEEDLES ARE TROUBLE.
IS THAT WHAT THEY USE TO SUCK OUT "LIFE FORCE"?

DOO (THOOM)
NU (SHING)
A NEW MON-STER!?
WHAT, THAT ONE'S A SUCCUBUS TOO!?
DOSA (WHUMP)
PA (THWOK)


RGH!
PYON (HOP)
WA (RUSH)


BUWA (SHUDDER)
ぶわっ!!

SUTAN (TMP)
スタン
!

BI (RIP)
BISHI (CREAK)
BISHI
BISHI

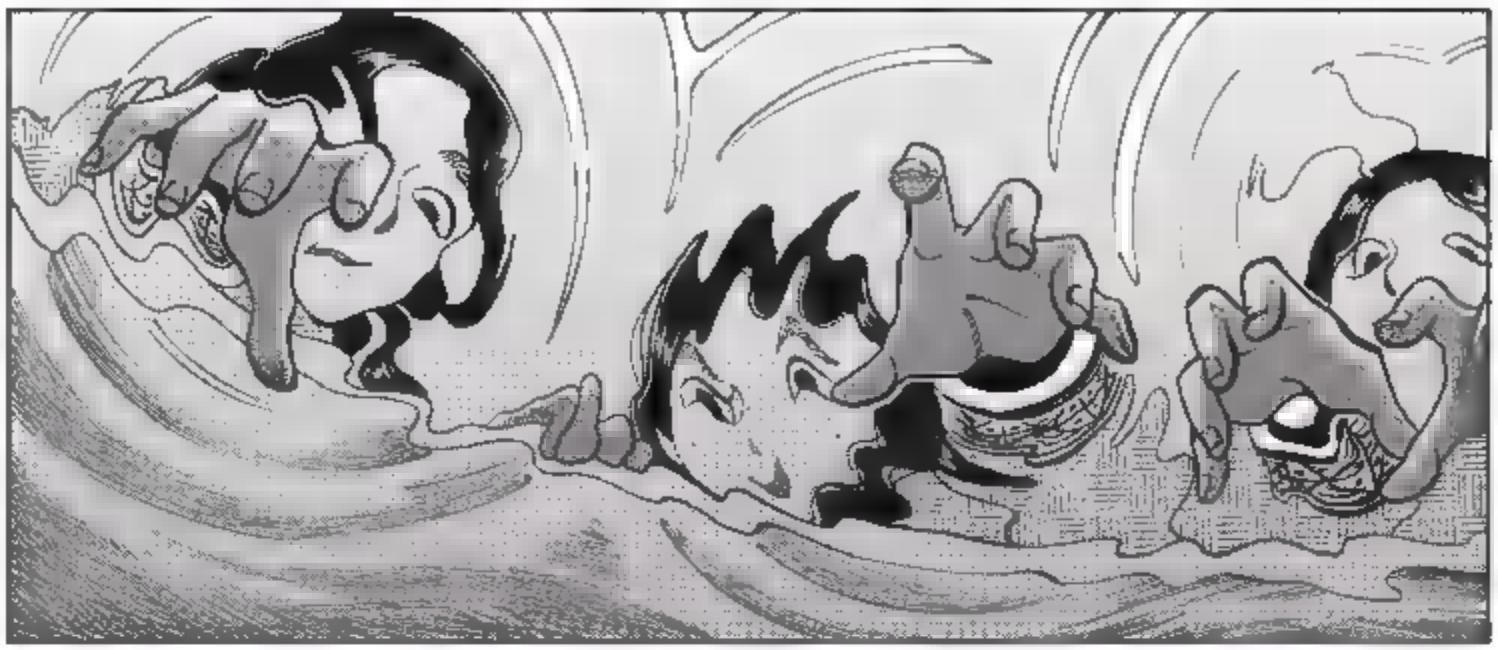
IF THIS KEEPS UP, THEY'LL SWARM ME.
I NEED A WAY TO GET THEM ALL AT ONCE—
EACH ONE IS WEAK, BUT THERE'S TOO MANY.

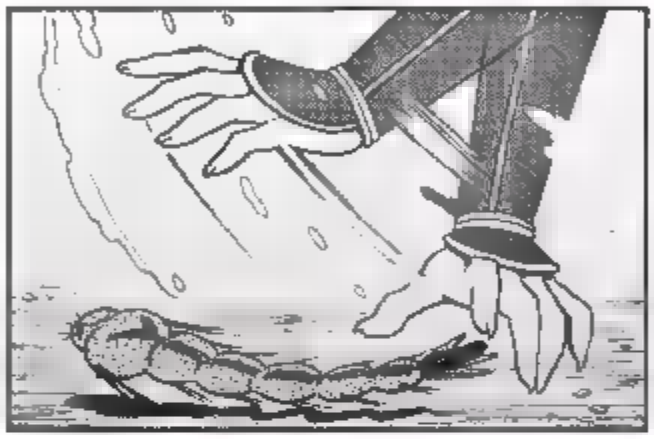
WINGS...

NO WAY...

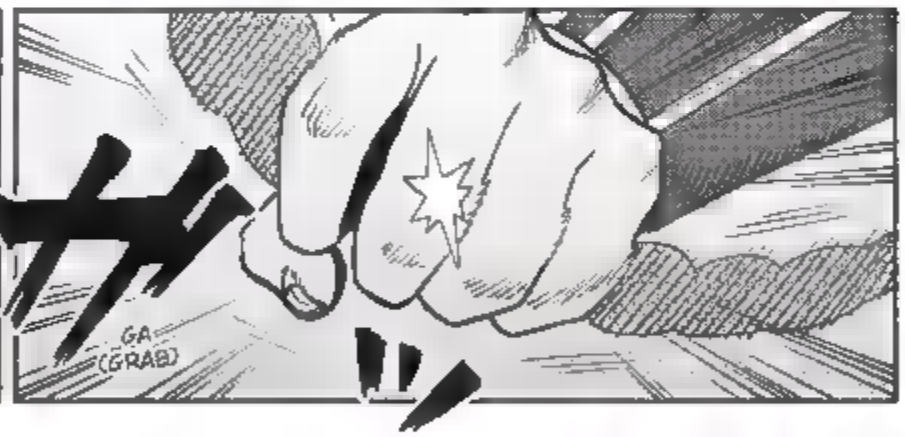
TSURU (SLIP)

BUAN (THRUM)





IF I SURFACE, THEY'LL GET ME!


GA
(GRAB)

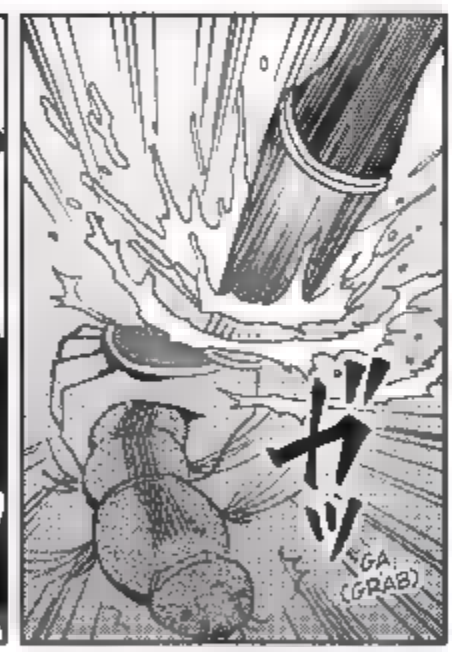
BUON
(THROW)
GO SOME-WHERE ELSE!

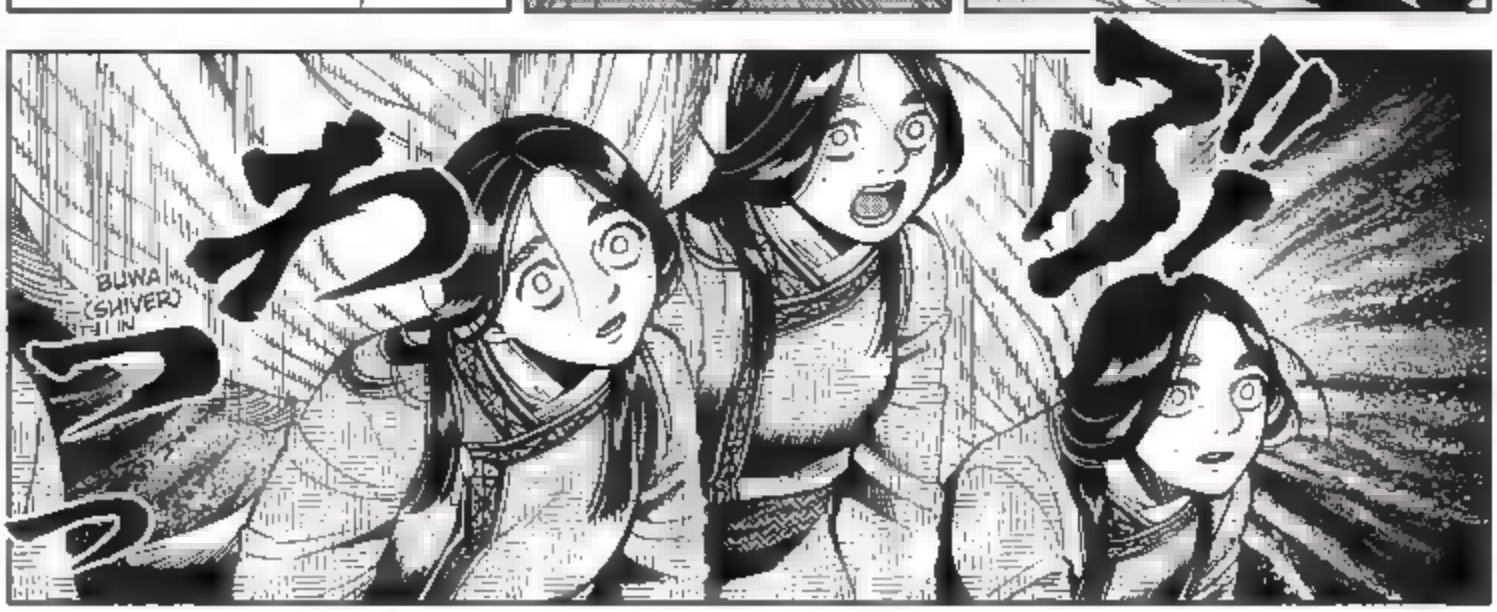
PICHI (FLAP)
PICHI
BITAN
BITAN (SPLUT)
BASHA (SPLASH)
POI
GASHI
GASHI
GASHI (GRAB)
POI (FLING)
I KNEW IT! I SHOULDA JUST RUN FOR IT!
DAMMIT! WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME!?
GOBO
GOBO (BLUB)
GOBO
GOBO
PITA (FREEZE)

BA
(GUARD)
BWAAAH!
SO
(SFF)
んっ…
ORO
ORO
(FRET)
PICHI
(WRIGGLE)
ピチ
PICHI

.....?

SA
(FWIP)
PICHI
PICHI


ガッ
GA
(GRAB)


ぶっ
ぶ!!
BUWA
(SHIVER)

BYU
(WHIP)
BYUN
(ZWOOM)
BA
(LUNGE)

SO
(SNEAK)
SHIN
(SILENCE)
HFF...
HFF...

SHIIIN (SILENCE)

SO...

...WHAT DO I DO ABOUT THIS?

I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT IT WORKED OUT.

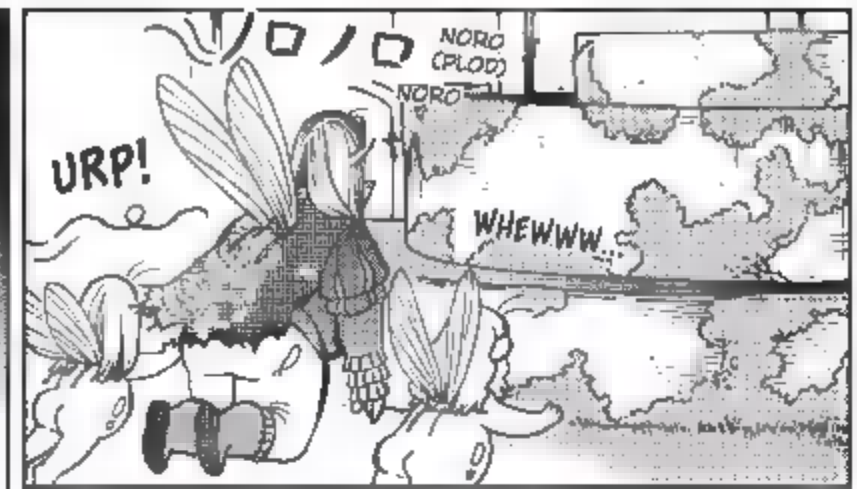
ARE THEY BACK!?

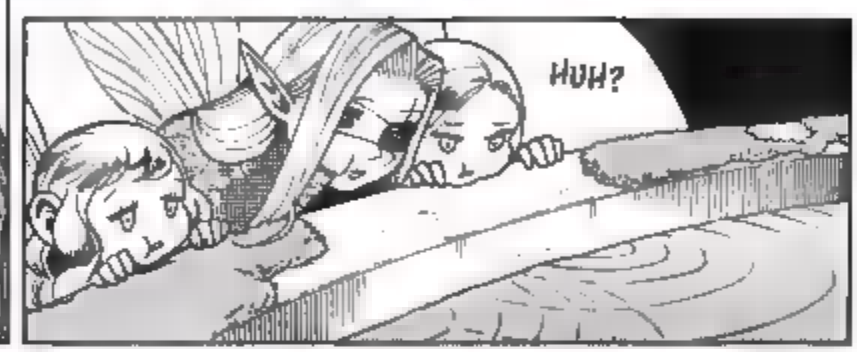
SA (WHIP)

PUWAAN (BZZZ)

HM!?

THEY'RE GONE.


NORO (PLOD)
NORO
URP!
WHEWWW


HUH?

BAKI (SNAP)
BOKO (WHACK)
GON (CLANG)
GABU (THWOK)

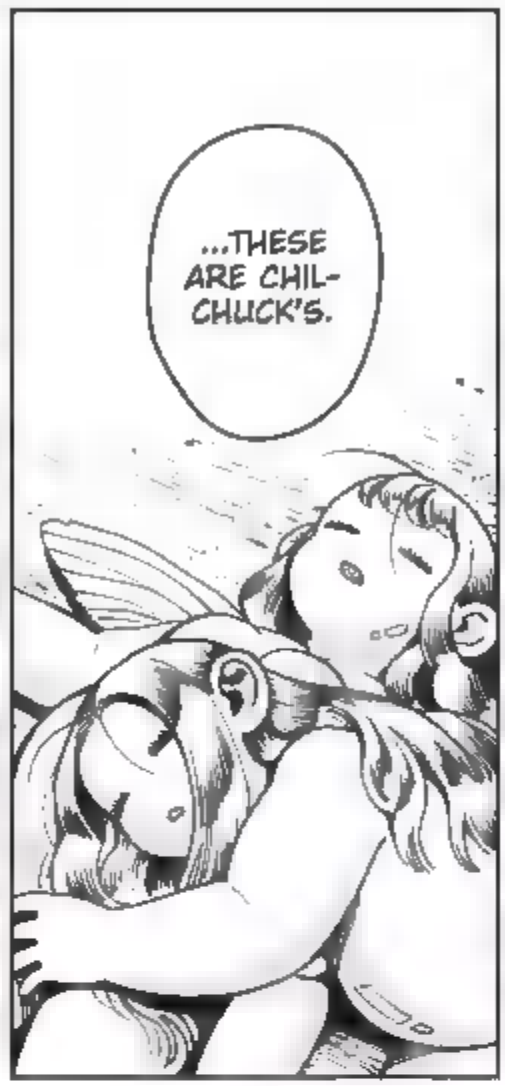
...SHE'S GOT AWFUL TASTE.

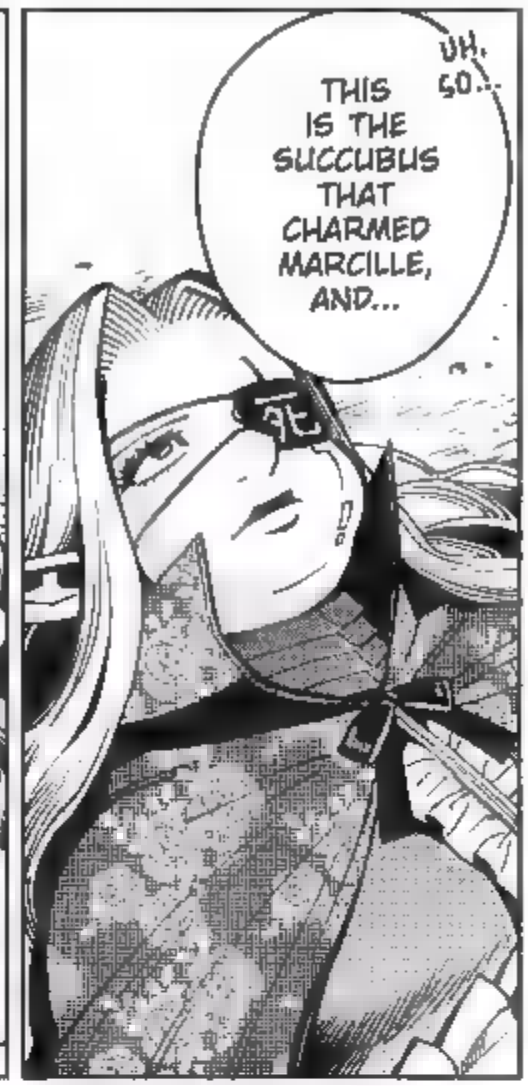
OH. ARE THEY THE SUCCUBI THAT DRANK MARCILLE AND CHILCHUCK'S LIFE FORCE?
THRASHED THEM ON REFLEX.
WHAT ARE THESE GUYS?

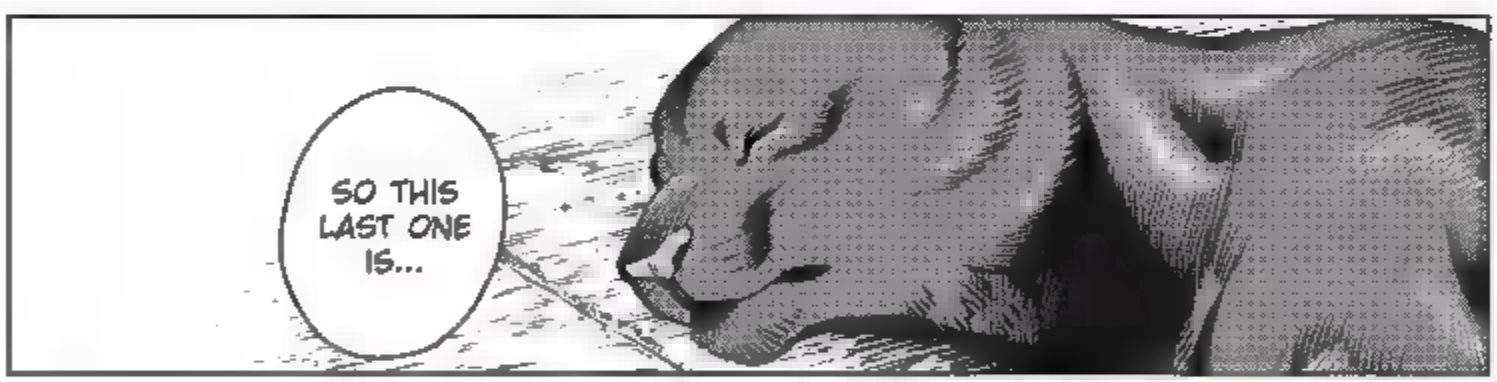
GENIUS.

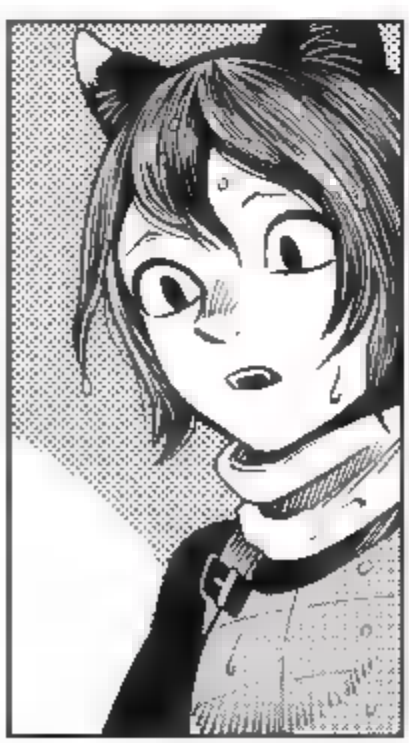
...THEN WON'T PUTTING IT BACK MAKE THEM NORMAL AGAIN?
IF THEY'RE DRIED UP BECAUSE THEY LOST THEIR LIFE FORCE...

THIS IS THE ONE THAT TRIED TO CHARM ME.


...THESE ARE CHIL-CHUCK'S.


UH, SO...
THIS IS THE SUCCUBUS THAT CHARMED MARCILLE, AND...


SO THIS LAST ONE IS...



A CAT...
DON'T TELL ME... WAS IT TRYING TO CHARM THE MONSTER THAT'S MIXED INTO ME!?
BUT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON ME.

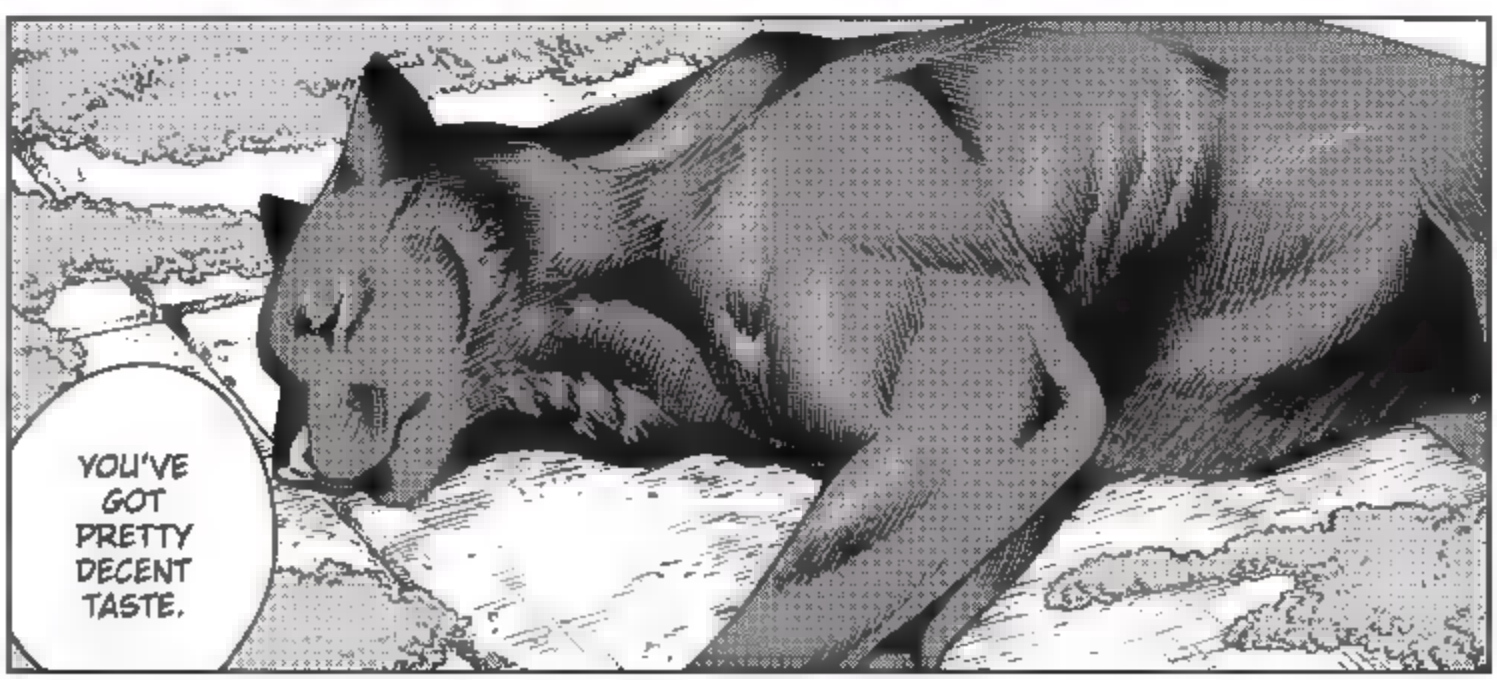
...MAYBE IT WASN'T BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A HUMAN HEART.
WAS IT BECAUSE I HAVE TWO HEARTS, AND IT ONLY WORKED ON ONE OF THEM?

WAIT A SEC.
SO WHEN SEEING MY MOTHER DIDN'T SHAKE ME UP...

...SO IS THIS YOUR TYPE?

I THOUGHT I'D BEEN ALONE ALL THIS TIME...
...BUT IN A WAY, I GUESS I WASN'T.

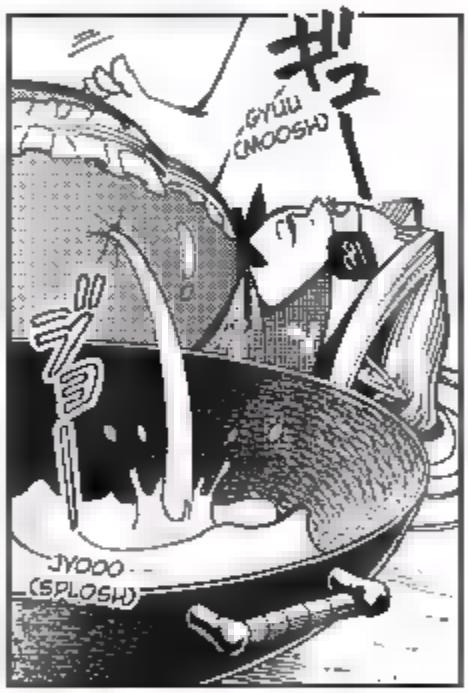
HUH.


YOU'VE GOT PRETTY DECENT TASTE.

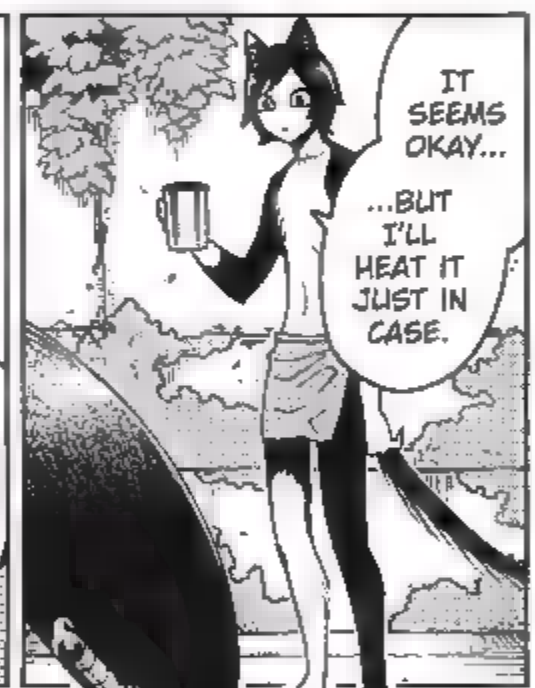
PYUUU
WHOA! SOMETHING WHITE CAME OUT.

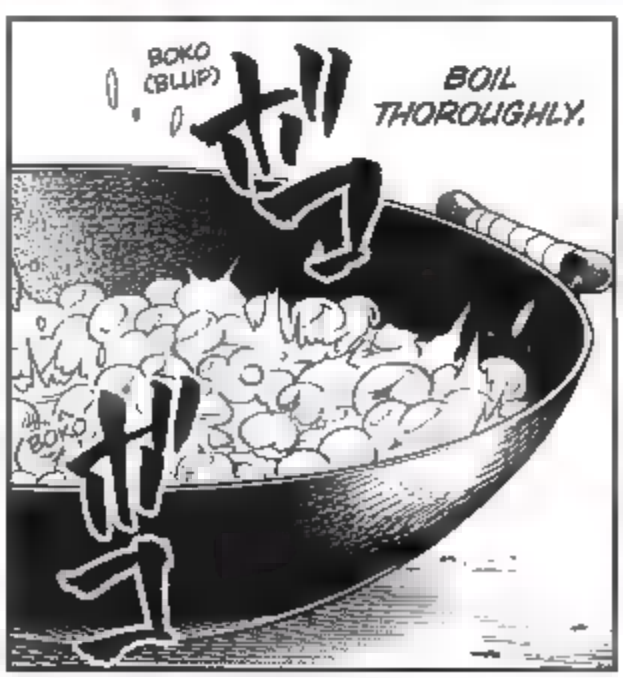
TOSU (SHNK)
PYU (SPURT)

IT SMELLS LIKE MILK...
KUN KUN (SNIFF)


GYUU (MOOSH)
JYOOO (SPLOSH)

HUP!


IT SEEMS OKAY...
...BUT I'LL HEAT IT JUST IN CASE.


BOKO (BLUP)
BOIL THOROUGHLY.
BOKO

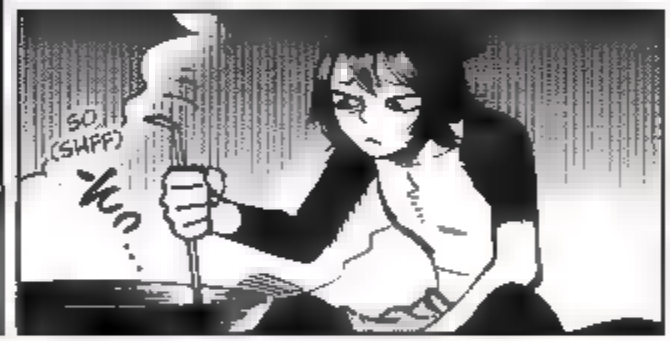
KON (TUNK)

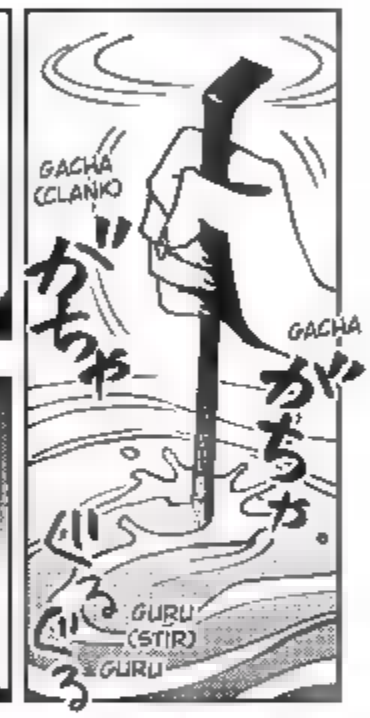
MEH, WHATEVER.
ZABAA (SHUFF)

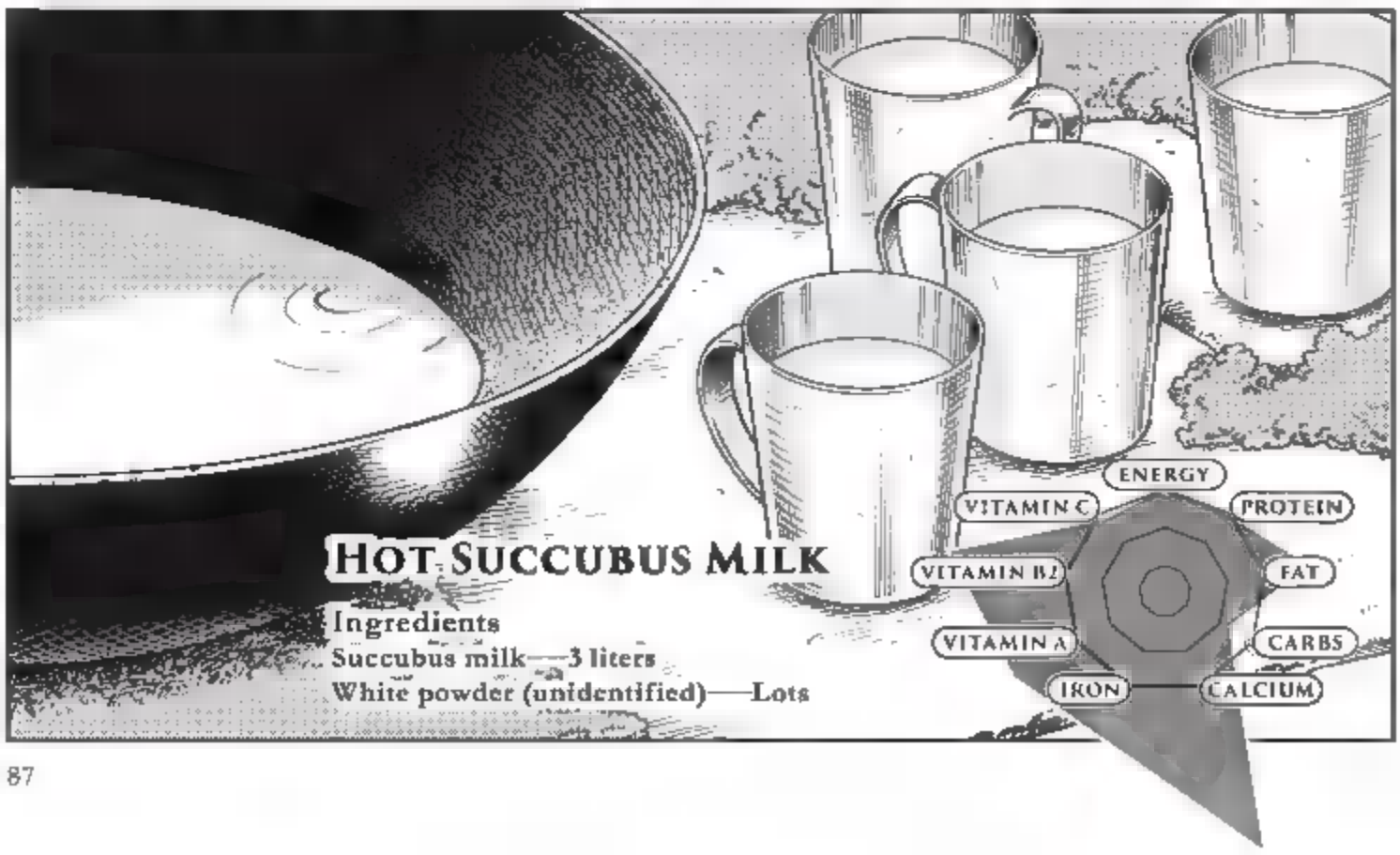
WHICH POWDER IS IT?
HMM...

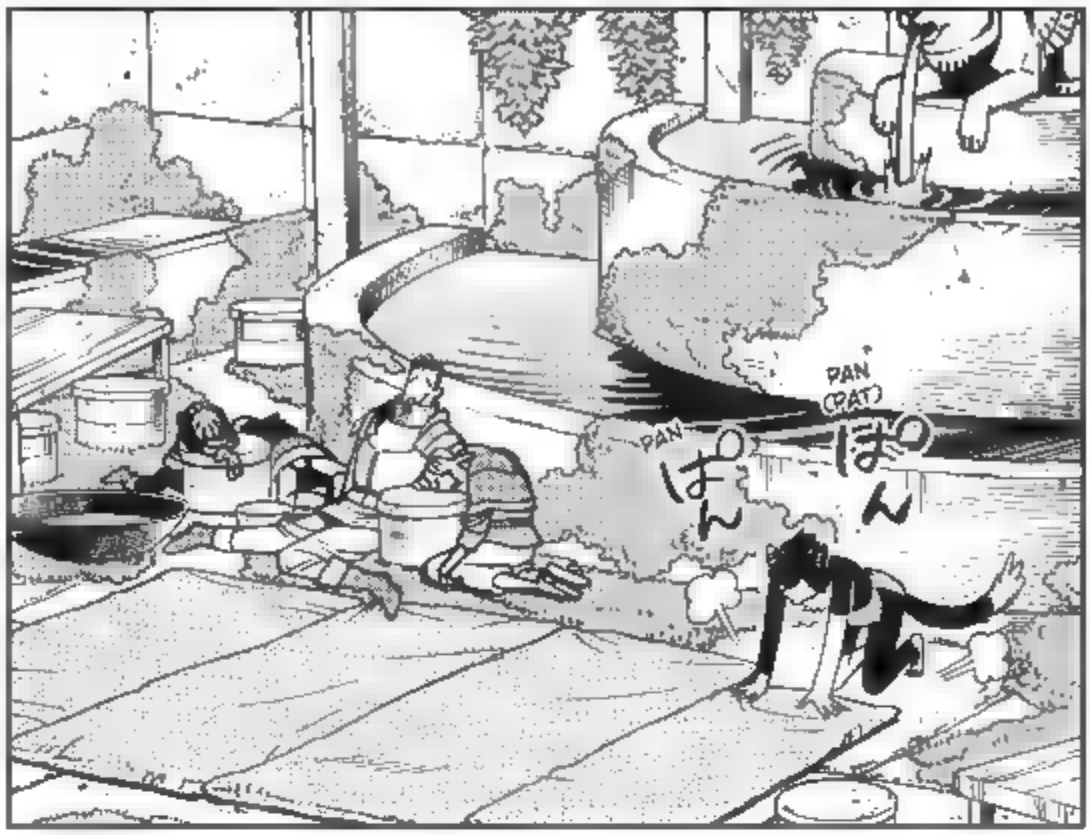
I BOILED IT, AND NOW THERE'S LESS.
SHE SAID THEY'D NEED LOTS OF NUTRIENTS.
SHOULD I ADD SUGAR OR SOME-THING?

KUN

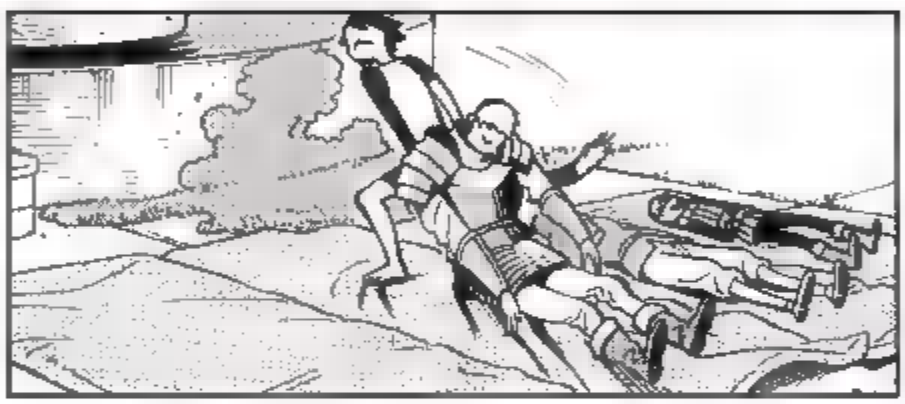

SO... (SHFF)

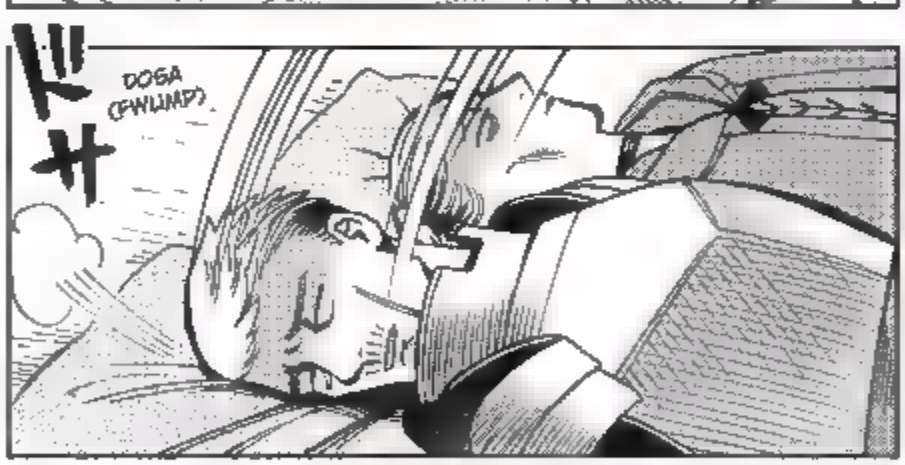

GACHA (CLANK)
GACHA
GURU (STIR)
GURU


HOT SUCCUBUS MILK
Ingredients
Succubus milk——3 liters
White powder (unidentified)——Lots
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

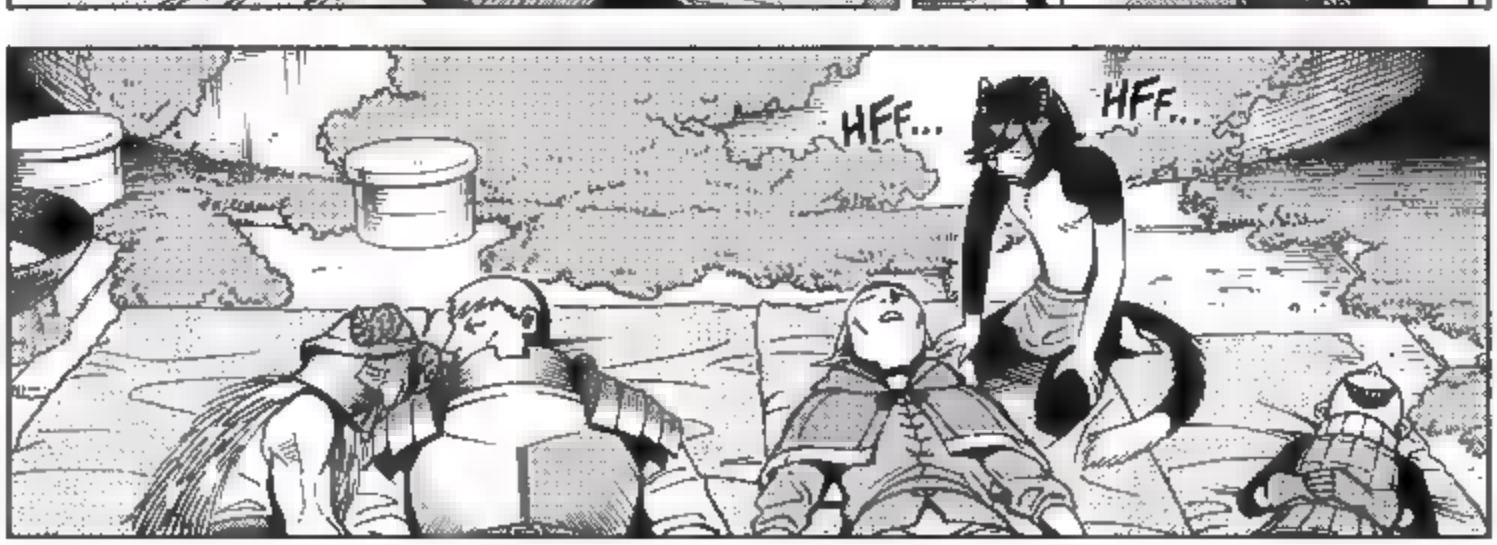

PAN
(PAT)
PAN
ぽん
ぽん

BASA
(FLAP)
ばさっ




DOSA
(FALLAP)
ドサ

ZURU
(DRAG)
ズルズル
ZURU

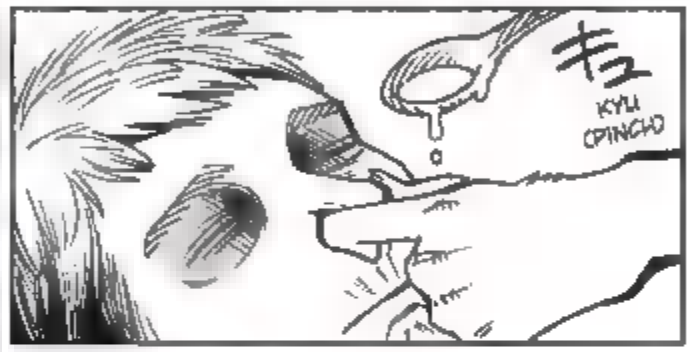

HFF...
HFF...

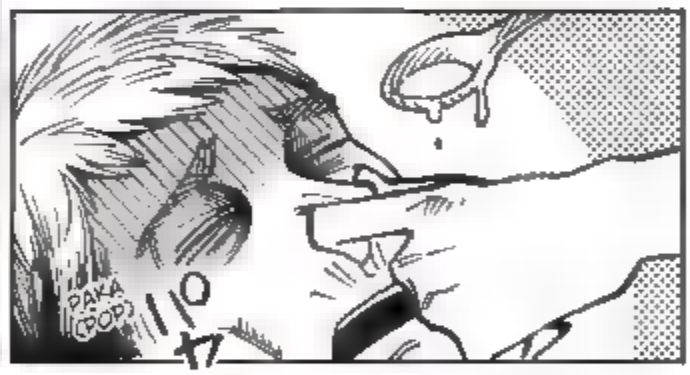
HEY. OPEN YOUR MOUTH.
GUI (TUG)
GUI

SUU (SLOW)
BITA (BLOP)
BITA

FWOO... FWOO...

THERE!
ZUBO (THUP)
GHK!


KYU (PINCH)


PAKA (POP)

I THINK HE'S A LITTLE BETTER.

THIS IS FUNNY...
CHUU

MOGO ONOMO
MOGO

CHUU (SUCK)
CHU

OKAY. I'LL JUST KEEP THAT UP, AND...

HAAA
AAA

KON (TUNK)
コン

KYUPO (POP)
キュポ

CHUU (SUCK)
ちゅう
ちゅう
CHUU

GOSHI
GOSHI
(WIPE)

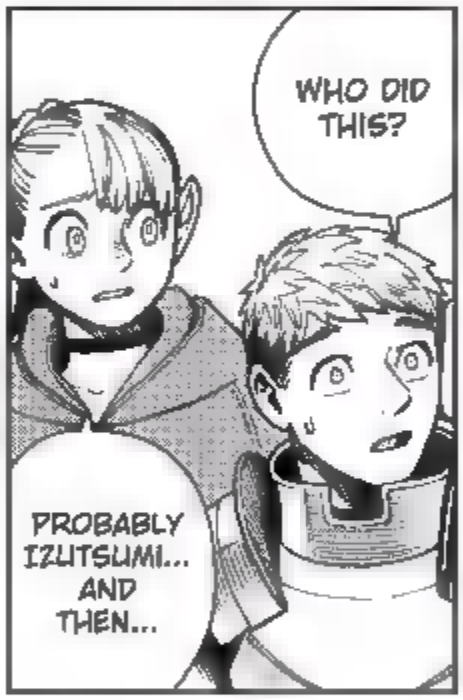
ZZZ...
ZZZ...

PHEW...
YAWWWN...

NO... WHERE...
WHOA! MARCILLE.
WE GOT HIT BY SUCCUBI.

HUH!? CLOSE...

YUSA (SHAKE)
WAKE UP...
AH!
LAIOS, WAKE UP.
YUSA

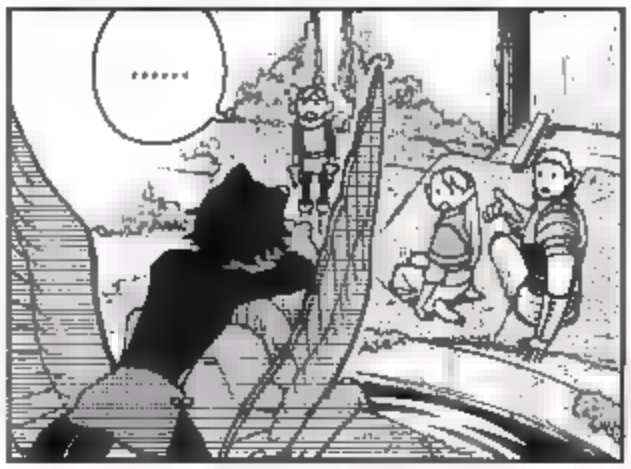

WHO DID THIS?
PROBABLY IZUTSUMI... AND THEN...

OH! RIGHT! THE SUCCUBI!
GABA (BOLD)

...ISN'T THAT HER OVER THERE?

WAIT. YOU'RE NOT UP TO THAT YET.
WE HAVE TO GO FIND HER.
FURA (SWAY)

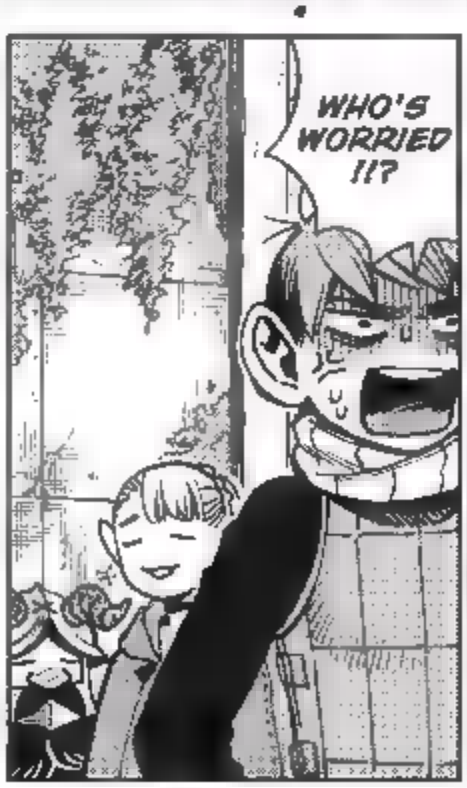
DON'T TELL ME SHE TOOK THE STUFF I SAID SERIOUS-LY...
...WHEN I WOKE UP, SHE WASN'T ANY-WHERE.


.....

がく
GAKU (SLUMP)
SHE WAS ASLEEP UP THERE?
GEEZ. GIMME A BREAK.

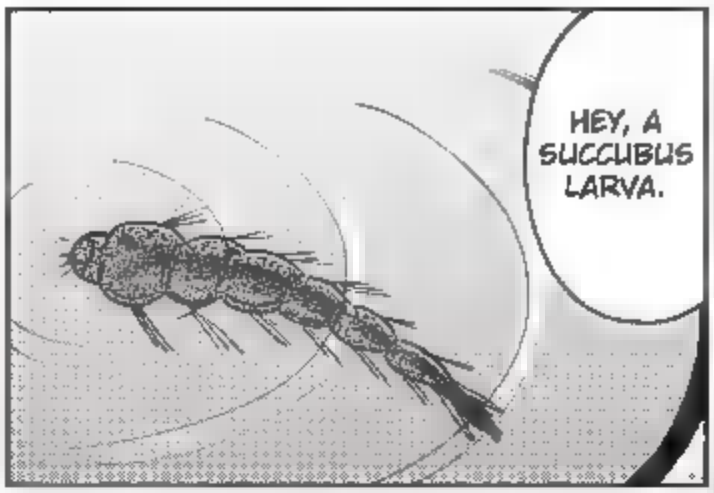
HAAAAAH!
I SWEAR, SHE JUST DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS!

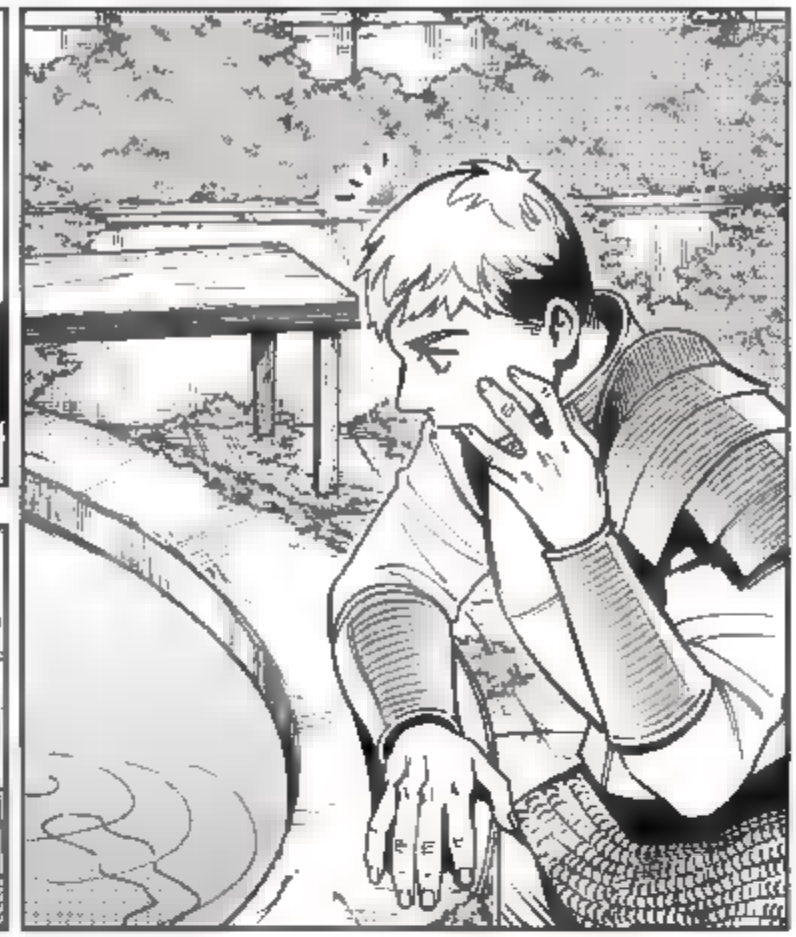
ZZZZZZ...


WHO'S WORRIED !!?

YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT THAT MUCH.
...BUT SHE KNOWS WE NEED HER.

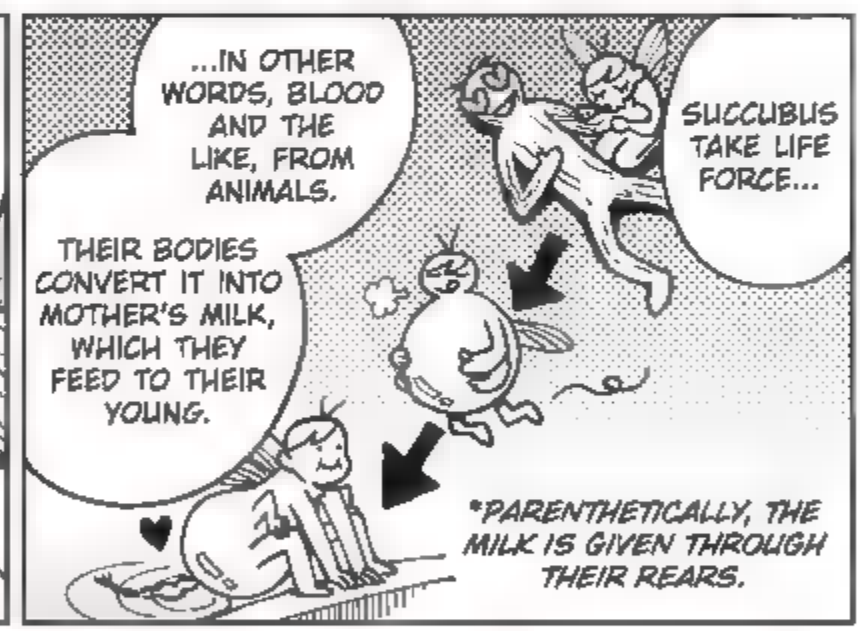
IZUTSUMI PROBABLY DOESN'T THINK SHE NEEDS US...
PON (PAT)


HEY, A SUCCUBUS LARVA.



AHA!
THIS FOUNTAIN MUST HAVE BEEN THEIR BREEDING GROUND.

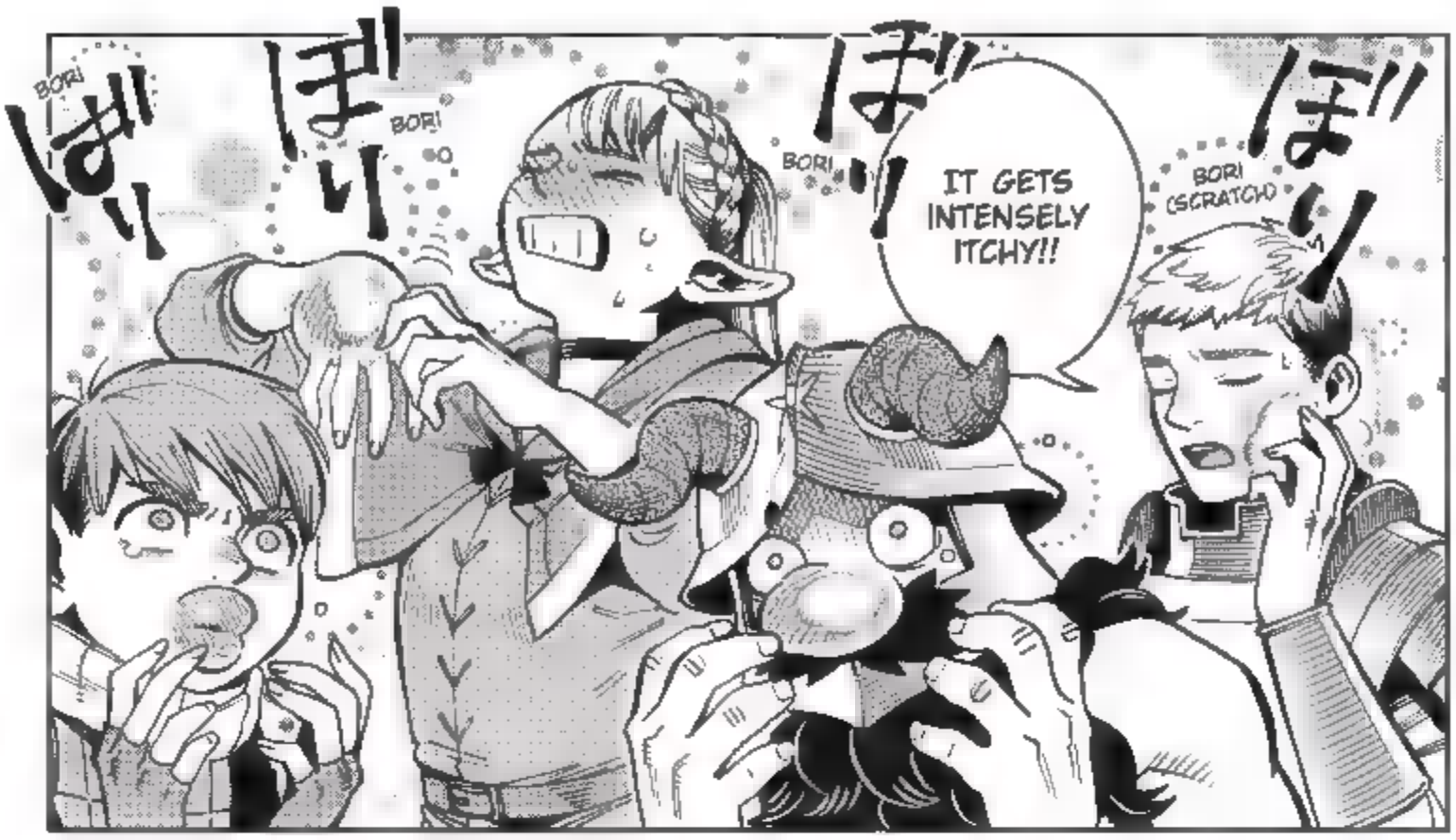
THEIR OFFICIAL NAME IS "SUCCUBUS MOSQUITO."
THEY'RE AN UNUSUAL INSECT THAT REARS THEIR YOUNG ON MILK.


...IN OTHER WORDS, BLOOD AND THE LIKE, FROM ANIMALS.
SUCCUBUS TAKE LIFE FORCE...
THEIR BODIES CONVERT IT INTO MOTHER'S MILK, WHICH THEY FEED TO THEIR YOUNG.
*PARENTHETICALLY, THE MILK IS GIVEN THROUGH THEIR REARS.

IT GIVES INTENSE PLEASURE, BUT WHEN THAT WEARS OFF—

...WHEN THEY DRINK BLOOD, THEY INJECT SALIVA THAT HAS NUMBING PROPERTIES.
IT PREVENTS CLOTTING AND KEEPS THEIR PREY FROM STRUG-GLING.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST LIKE ACTUAL MOSQUI-TOES...

HUH...?
SO... THEY'RE MOSQUI-TOES?

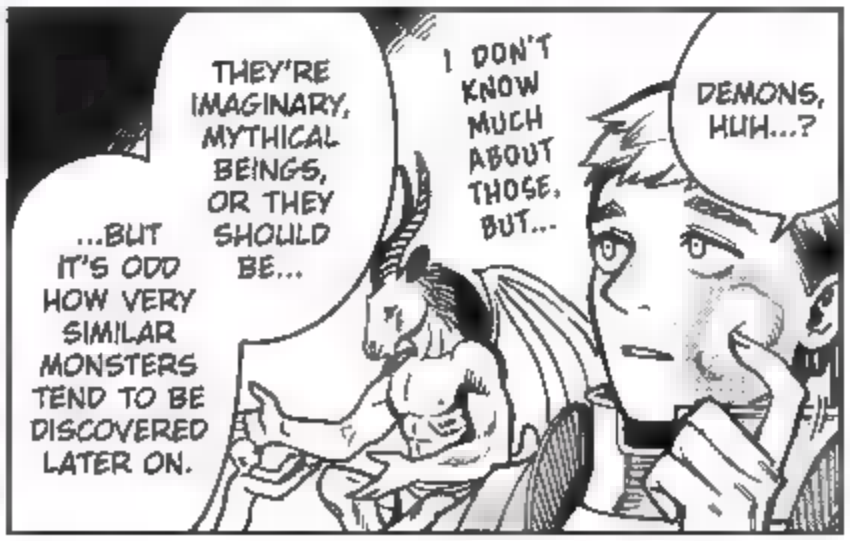

BORI
BORI
BORI
BORI (SCRATCH)
IT GETS INTENSELY ITCHY!!

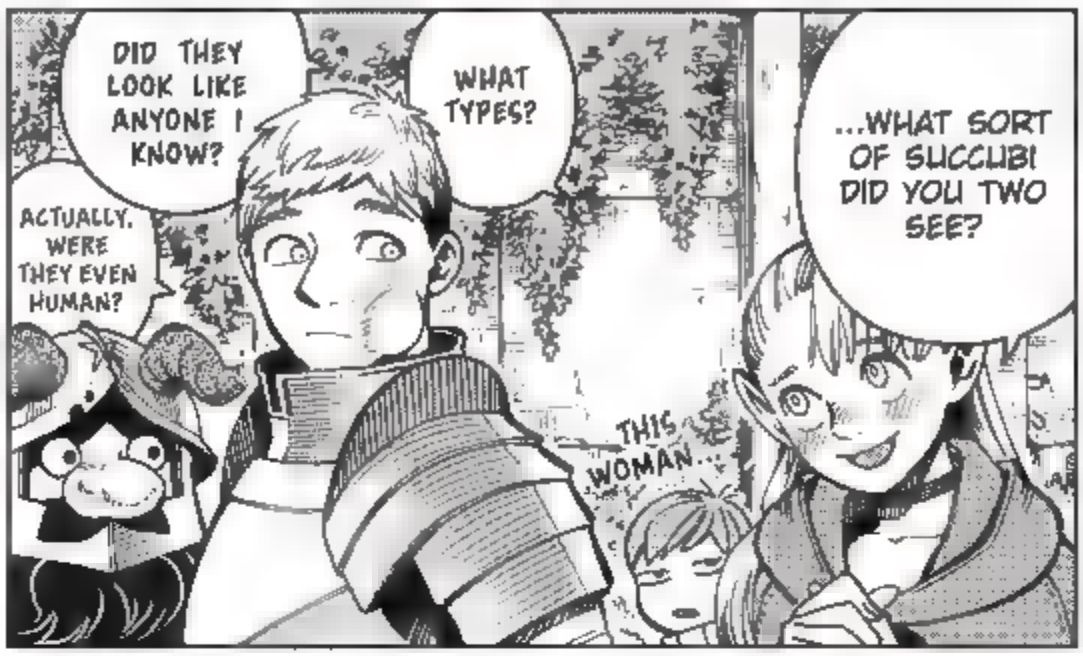
THERE ARE SUCCUBUS DEMONS TOO.
ACTUALLY...
I THINK THAT'S WHERE THE NAME CAME FROM.

BORI
STILL, MOSQUI-TOES...
BORI
I JUST ASSUMED THEY WERE DEMONS.

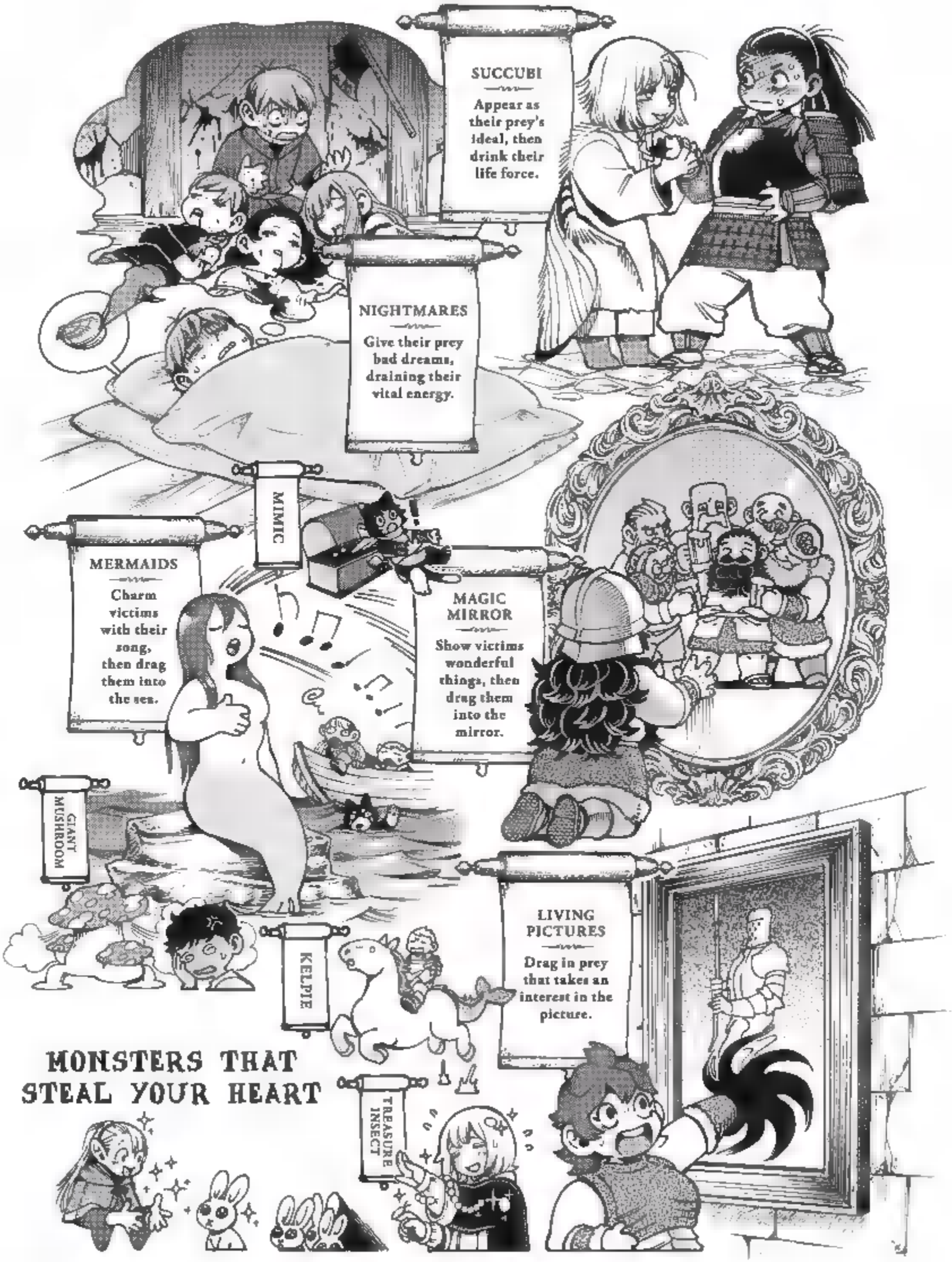
THAT'S WHY PEOPLE PROCESS IT INTO DRINKS OR INCENSE.
GOOD MOVE.

I'M NOT INTRIGUED AT ALL.
WHAT INTRIGUING CREATURES.
I WONDER HOW MONSTERS ARE CREATED.

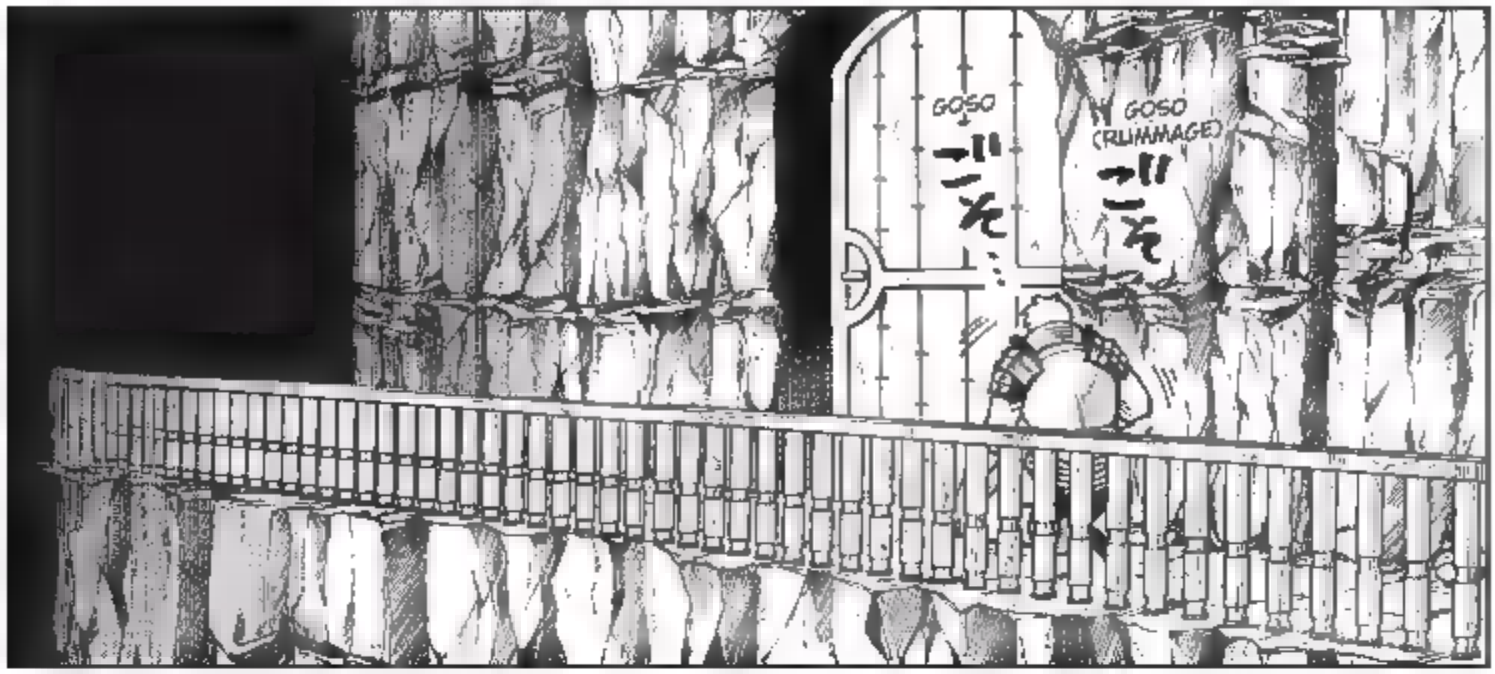

THEY'RE IMAGINARY, MYTHICAL BEINGS, OR THEY SHOULD BE...
...BUT IT'S ODD HOW VERY SIMILAR MONSTERS TEND TO BE DISCOVERED LATER ON.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THOSE, BUT...
DEMONS, HUH...?



CHAPTER 59: THE END

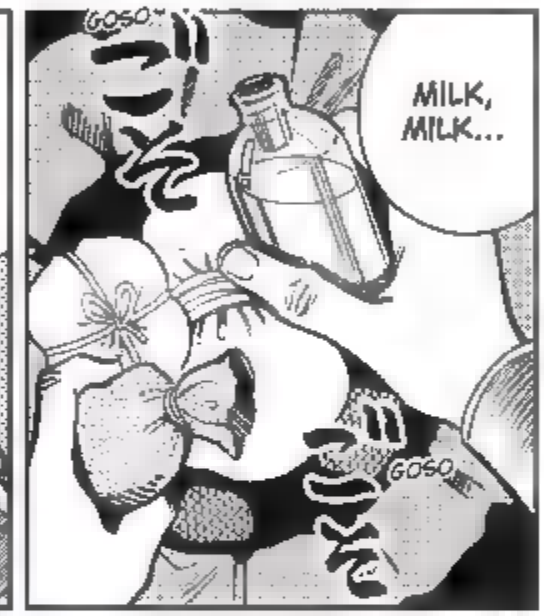


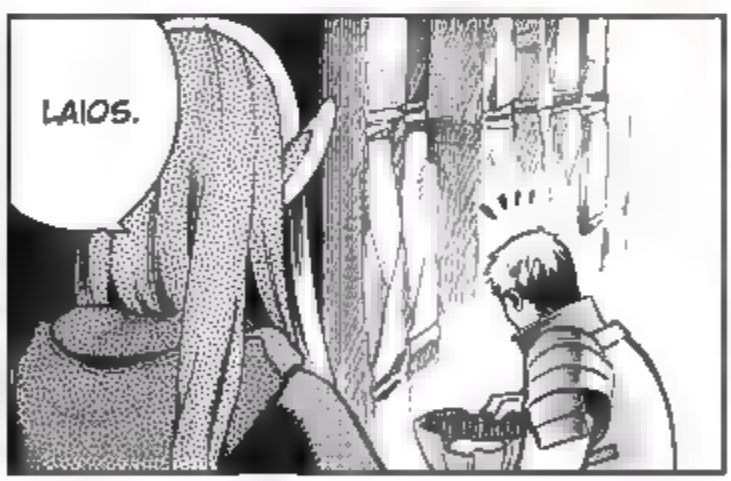
60. The Winged Lion

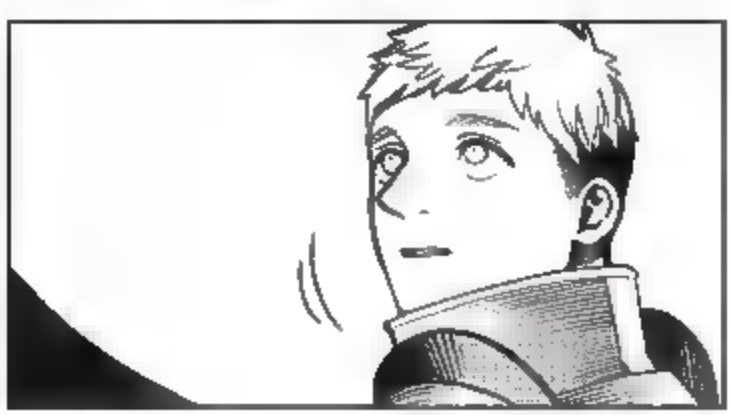

GOSO
ごそ
GOSO (RUMMAGE)
ごそ

I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHETHER SUCCUBI REALLY DID DRINK MILK...
GAKKARI (DROOP)
がっかり

カラ KARA
KARA (EMPTY) カラ
OH! WE'RE OUT, HUH?


GOSO~
ごそ
MILK, MILK...
GOSO
ごそ

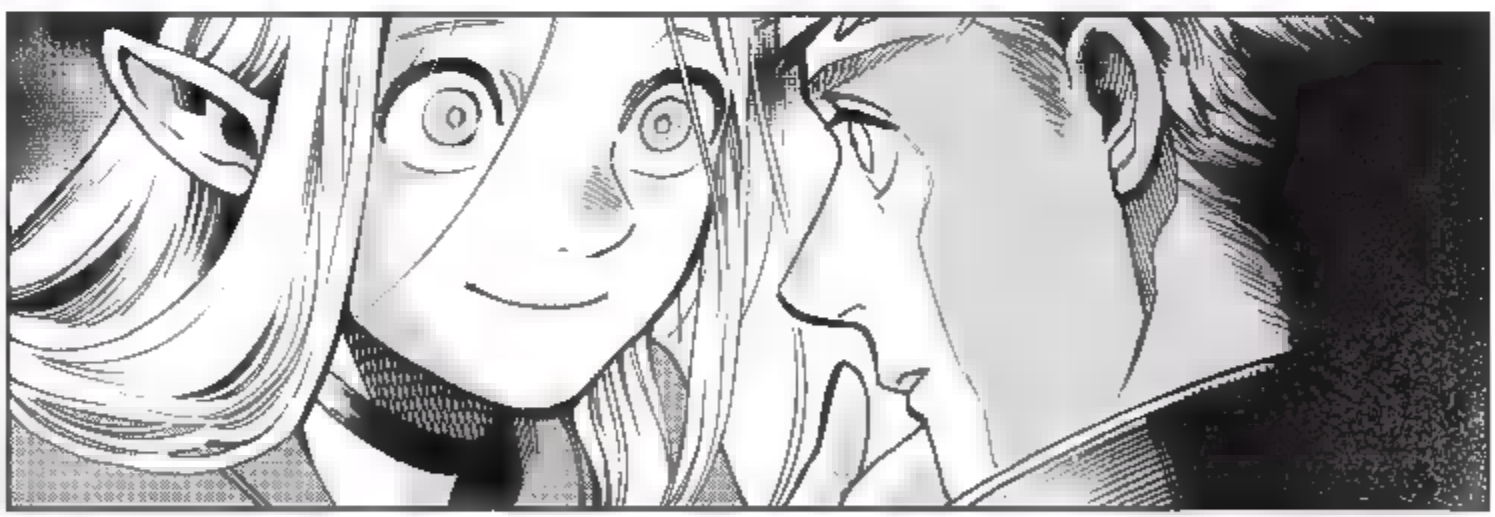

LAIOS.

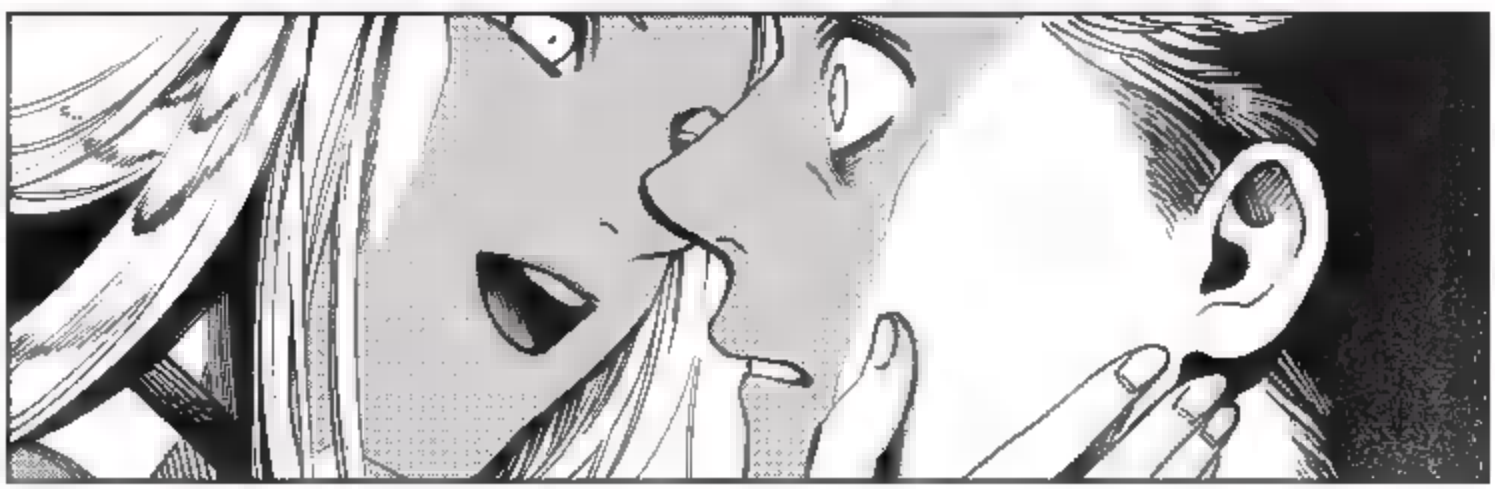


THEY SAY IF YOU PUT MILK BY YOUR PILLOW, THE SUCCUBUS WILL DRINK THAT AND YOU'LL ESCAPE UNHARMED.
THAT'S THE DEMON TYPE OF SUCCUBUS, THOUGH, NOT THIS KIND.

OH, MARCILLE.
RIGHT. I'M SORRY; I SHOULDN'T HAVE GONE ALONE.

WE'RE OUT OF MILK...





GO (WHUD)

GA (GRAB)

A SHAPE-SHIFTER?

NO, A SUCCUBUS!

THIS ISN'T MARCILLE.

WHY DOES SHE LOOK LIKE MARCILLE ...?

I HAVE TO HUSH THIS UP.

SURA (SHING)

WA...

YOU SAW ME LIKE THAT?

WHA ...?

LAIOS... YOU MAKE ME ILL.

UH-OH. THEY'RE GOING TO GET THE WRONG IDEA.

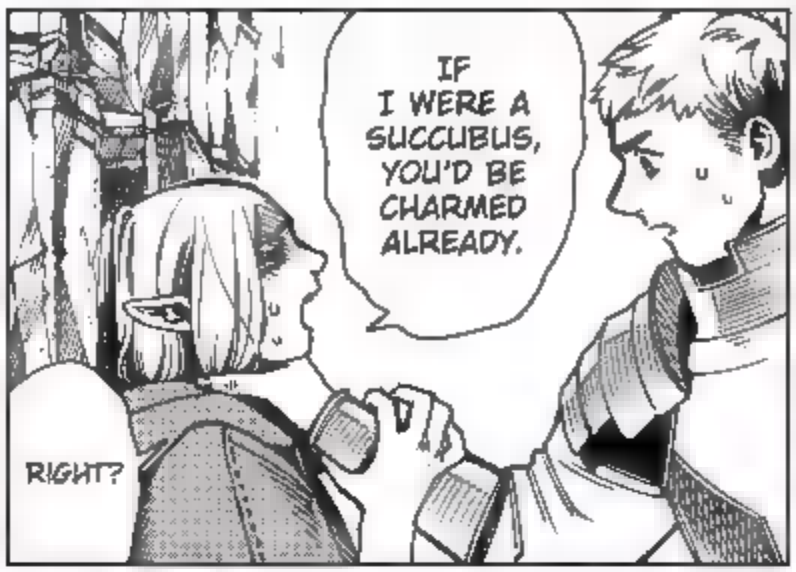
NO ROMANCE ON THE JOB!

WHAT DID I TELL YOU!?

DO (BADMP)

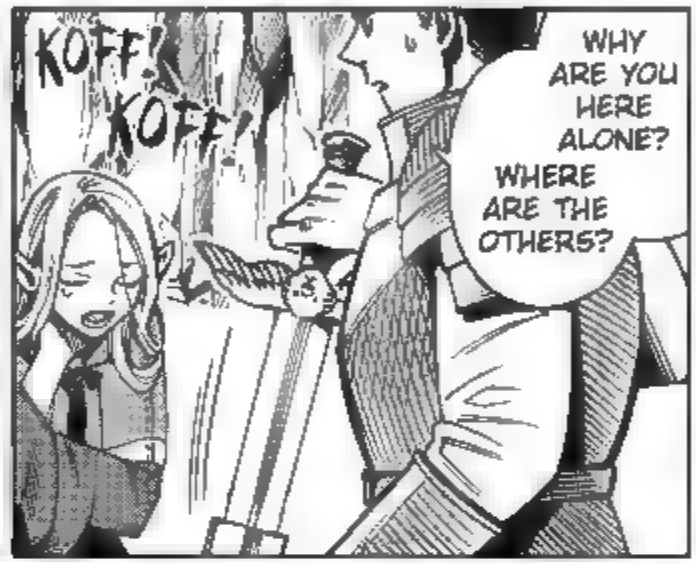
IZU-TSUM!

.....
?
I GUESS SO.


IF I WERE A SUCCUBUS, YOU'D BE CHARMED ALREADY.
RIGHT?

WAIT, LAIOS.

ACTU-ALLY, I...


KOFF! KOFF!
WHY ARE YOU HERE ALONE? WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?

GU (SHP)

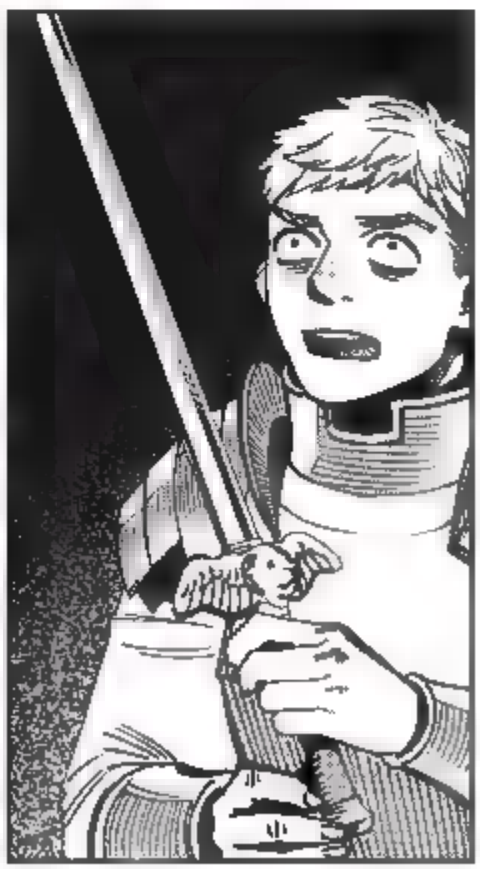
MISHI (CREAK)
YOU SEE...
...THE TRUTH IS...

I HAVE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
TELL [redacted] SOME-THING?

BAKIKI (CRUNCH)
MISHI
MISHI

...I'M A MONSTER.

GIGA HEPTA-HEAD MARCILLE



YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMETHING INHUMAN, HAVEN'T YOU?

SHE'S A SCYLLA...

B-BUT OUR FRIENDS...

LAIOS, BECOME A MONSTER.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO HURT FALIN THAT WAY.

IZU-TSUMI

GIGA DOUBLE-HEADED FLAME ICE CHIL-CHUCK

GIGA DOUBLE-HEADED FLAME ICE SENSHI

I ALREADY BIT ALL OF THEM.

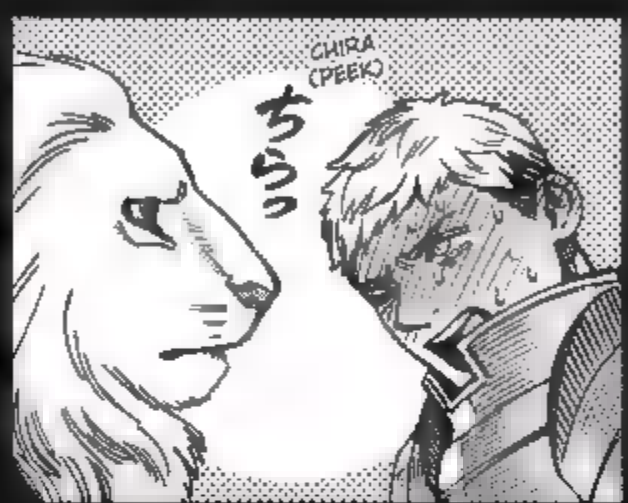
OH, THEM. NO WORRIES!

PERO (LICK)

EXACTLY.

OH. I WON'T WORRY, THEN...

OKAY, HERE GOES.


CHIRA (PEEK)
ちらっ

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

WE'RE IN YOUR DREAM.
YOU WERE BITTEN BY A SUCCUBUS AND PASSED OUT.
MARCILLE ...!?
WAUGH!
WHAT IS THIS?

OH.
UM, WHO ARE YOU?
NO, IT'S...

IS THIS ANY TIME TO BE FALLING FOR CHEAP TRAPS!?
YOU HAVE A MISSION, REMEMBER!?
HEY!
SO THAT MARCILLE REALLY WAS A SUCCUBUS?

I HAVEN'T INTRO-DUCED MYSELF.

I AM...

WELL, I DON'T HAVE A SPECIFIC NAME OR SHAPE...

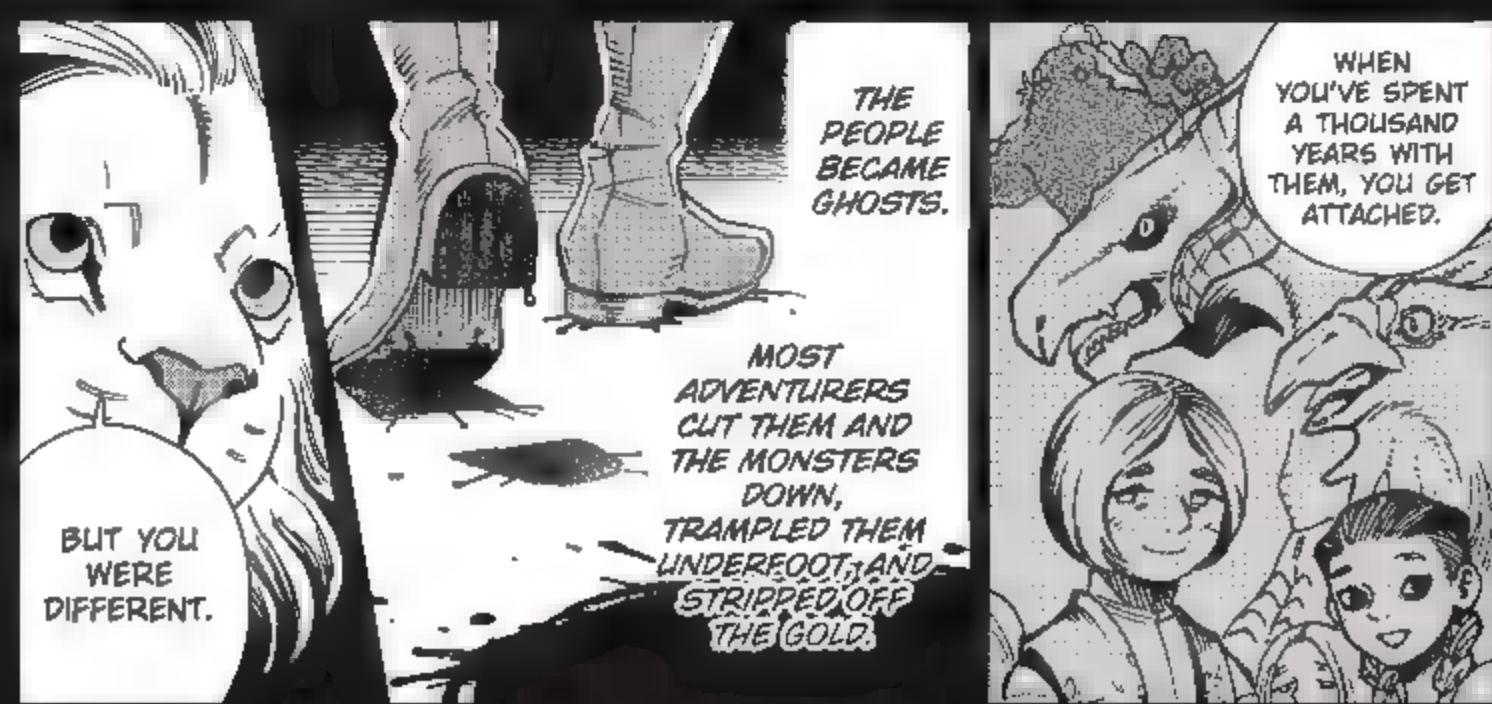
...BUT MOST PEOPLE CALL ME "THE WINGED LION."

TH-THE SAVIOR...!?
DO (BADUMP)

LAIOS, YOU REALLY MUST BE MORE SELF-AWARE!
UNDER-STAND THAT YOU ARE THE SAVIOR OF THIS COUNTRY!

I HAVE A QUES-TION.
WHY ME?

I DID IT ON SISSEL'S REQUEST, BUT THE PEOPLE AND MON-STERS... WELL.
!?
I CREATED THE DUNGEON AND ITS MONSTERS TO PROTECT THIS LAND AND ITS PEOPLE.
...I...


BUT YOU WERE DIFFERENT.
THE PEOPLE BECAME GHOSTS.
MOST ADVENTURERS CUT THEM AND THE MONSTERS DOWN, TRAMPLED THEM UNDERFOOT, AND STRIPPED OFF THE GOLD.
WHEN YOU'VE SPENT A THOUSAND YEARS WITH THEM, YOU GET ATTACHED.

YOU LOVE THE MONSTERS.

YOU EAT THEM, SO THEIR DEATHS WON'T BE WASTED.

I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE KILLED QUITE A FEW MYSELF.

AND I MADE SHERBET.

I DON'T DENY THAT.

IT SEEMS SIMILAR, BUT IT TRULY IS DIFFER-ENT.

LAIOS!

I WANT TO ENTRUST YOU WITH THIS LAND...

...ITS PEOPLE...

...AND ITS MONSTERS.

BA (WHOOSH)

THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE.

WHY DON'T WE LOOK AT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...

...IF YOU BECAME KING OF THIS COUNTRY?

HM.

MOJI (FIDGET)

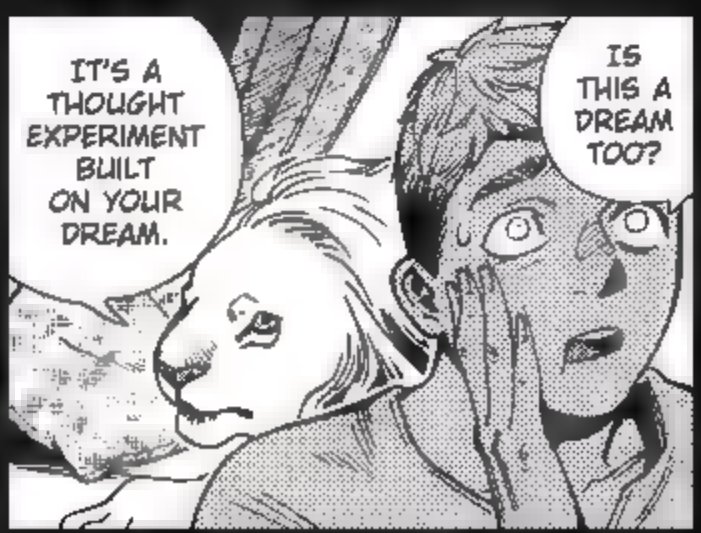
MOJI

TH-THAT'S KIND OF, UH...

YOU'RE STILL HESITANT?

BROTHER, WAKE UP.

BROTHER ...



MORNING, YOUR MAJESTY!

MORNING.

GOOD MORNING, YOUR MAJESTY.

GOOD MORNING ...

WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?

YOUR CITIZENS.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL LET LORD SENSHI KNOW.

A READY ANSWER?

WYVERN —

COCKA-TRICE OR BASILISK?

WE HAVE WYVERN EGGS AS WELL.

WHAT KIND OF ROLLED OMELET DID YOU WANT THIS MORNING?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, MASTER LAIOS.

MARCILLE!
WITH REGARD TO BUILDING A SHOPPING DISTRICT ON THE THIRD FLOOR...
WE DECIDED WE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT BUSINESS DURING MEALS, REMEMBER?

TAKE A BREAK.
COME HELP ME SERVE.
WE AREN'T EATING YET.

MORNING, LAIOS.
YOU'RE FINALLY UP.
I HAVE ALL SORTS OF BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.

TEKIPAKI (SWIFT)
テキパキ

SHE HAS A GIFT FOR THIS.
I'M SURE IT WILL [redacted] A FINE DUNGEON.

THAT'S GOOD.
SHARING THE WORK EXPANDS THE POSSI-BILITIES.
OH.

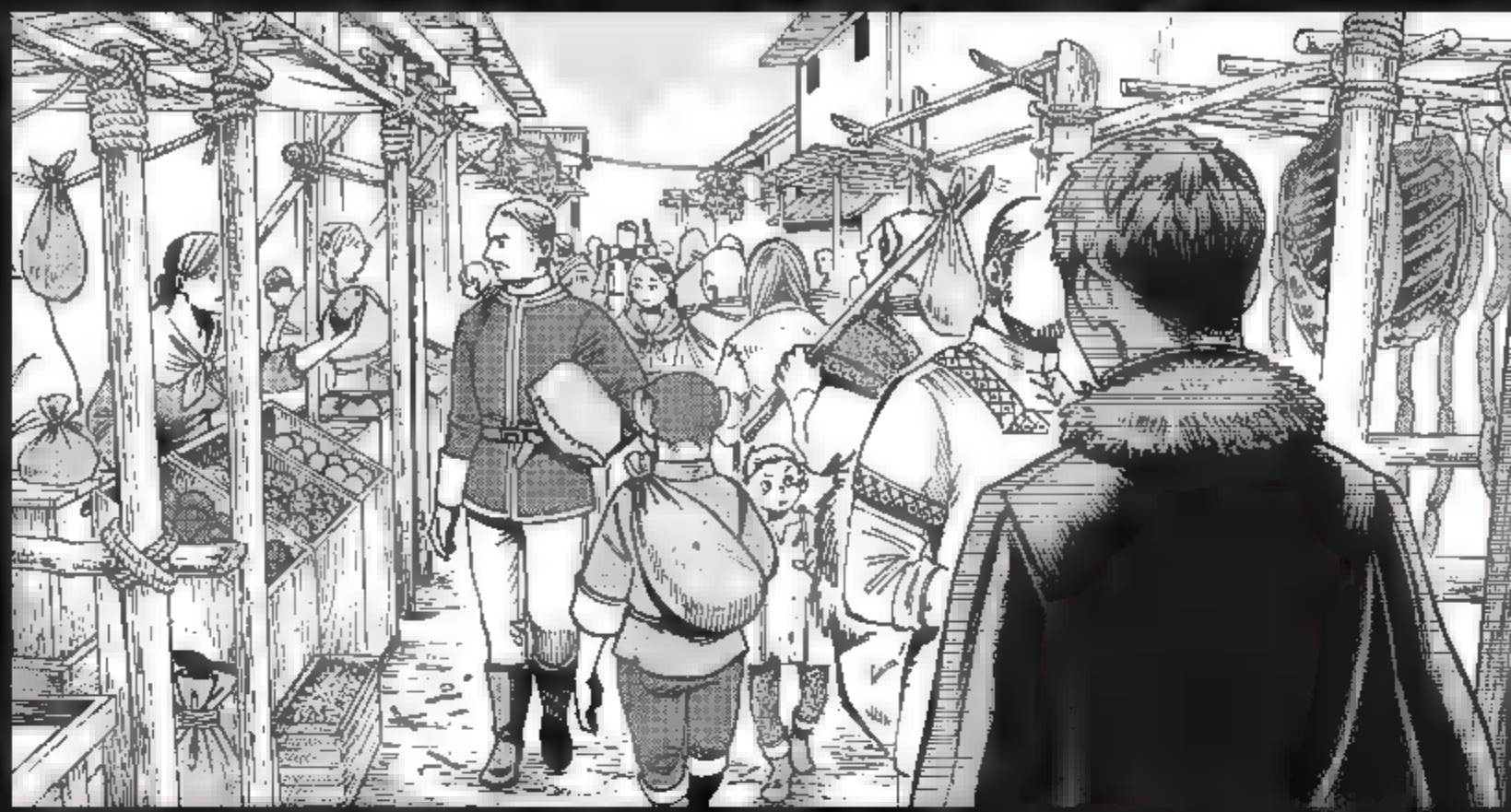
APPARENTLY SHE'S IN CHARGE OF DUNGEON DESIGN, FOR THE MOST PART.

ENERGY
VITAMIN C
PROTEIN
VITAMIN B2
FAT
VITAMIN A
CARBS
IRON
CALCIUM

THANKS FOR THE FOOD!

THE BREAKFAST MENU

Rye bread
Wyvern rolled omelet
Hippogriff sausage
Walking mushroom soup



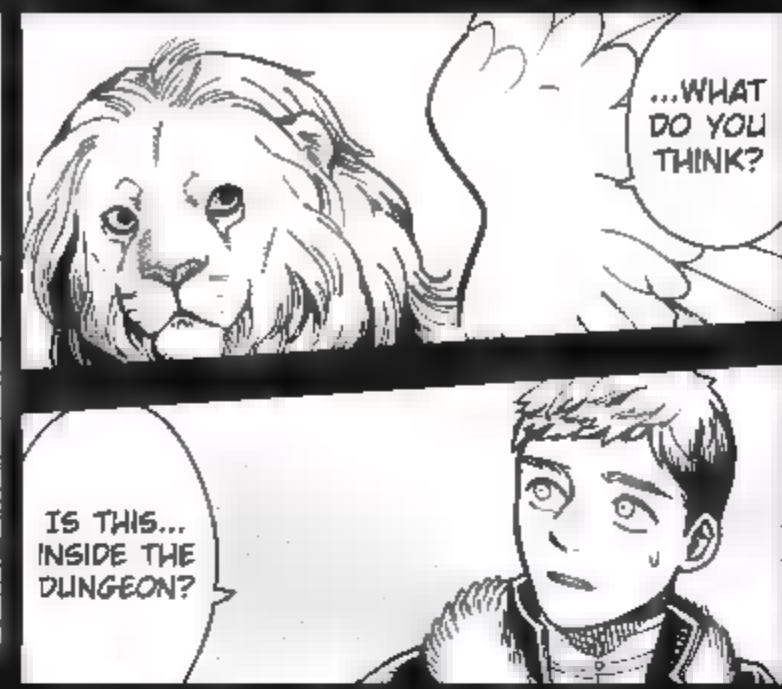
CAUGHT FRESH THIS MORNING!

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS.

HOWEVER, MOST SEEM TO [redacted] FROM THE SURFACE.
YOUR IDEAS STRUCK A CHORD WITH THEM.
SOME WERE IN THE DUNGEON ALREADY.

THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE...

YOU SEEM TO HAVE BANNED EXPLORATION...
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE EITHER. BUT...
INDEED IT IS. YOU BUILT THIS TOWN.
...AND YOUR ECONOMY TURNS ON THE PRODUCTS OF HARMLESS MONSTERS.


...WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS THIS... INSIDE THE DUNGEON?

THE DUNGEON OBEYS ITS MASTER'S WISHES.
WHY ARE YOU SURPRISED?
SISSEL COMMANDED THEM NOT TO ATTACK THE PEOPLE OF HIS COUNTRY.

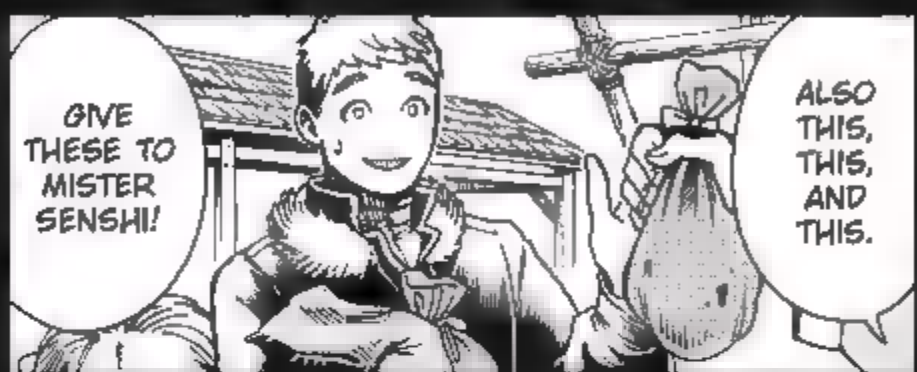
HARMLESS MONSTERS...
IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE?
SO WE TRADE WITH THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE DUNGEON!?

I AM MERELY POWER.
THE POWER TO FULFILL THE WISH OF THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON.

...WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU?

YOU CAN EAT IT JUST AS IT IS.
HERE, HAVE ONE.
IT'S A FRESH-PICKED BARO-METZ.

MISTER LAIOS.


GIVE THESE TO MISTER SENSHI!
ALSO THIS, THIS, AND THIS.

IT'S A DREAM, SO I CAN'T TASTE IT.
UU...
LET ME HAVE A BITE.

SHAKU CRUNCH
シャク

IT'S STILL AN EMBRYO?

がくっ
GAKKUSHI (DROOP)
...NO GOOD.
AND HERE I THOUGHT I'D HAVE MY FIRST MEAL IN AGES...

SHAKU
シャク

HEH.

HOWEVER, AFTER BEING FORCED TO WATCH YOUR MEALS, I STARTED TO MISS IT, REGARDLESS OF WHAT I ACTUALLY REQUIRE.
YOU EAT SUCH DELICIOUS-LOOKING THINGS— EVERY SINGLE DAY!

YOU DON'T EAT?
AS A PRISON-ER...
...IT ISN'T SOME-THING I PARTIC-ULARLY NEED TO DO.

SISSEL'S HOUSE ISN'T FAR FROM YOUR CURRENT LOCATION.
I'M LOCKED IN THERE.
I'LL USE KENSUKE TO GUIDE YOU.

A PRISONER... WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

DIRTY VARLET!
ソーサー!
ソーサー!

IF YOU WATCH FOR A CHANCE, STEAL IN, AND RELEASE ME...
...I CAN KEEP HIS POWER AT BAY FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE'S A POACHER.

HOWEVER, THOSE ARE THE VERY CREATURES THAT DRAW ADVENTURERS.
MANDRAKES, UNICORNS, TREASURE INSECTS, SUCCUBI...
MONSTERS THAT DON'T [redacted] PEOPLE CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES.
MONSTERS THAT HAVE MONETARY VALUE ARE NATIONAL PROPERTY.

HMM...
NO, THAT'S A BAD IDEA.
ALLOW SELF-DEFENSE ONLY WHEN SOMEONE'S ATTACKED?
BUTSU (MUTTER) BUTSU
POST MORE GUARDS...
KEEP NON-CITIZENS OUT— NO, THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD...

TAKE THAT!
WRETCH!
SCUM!
THAT'S... A TOUGH ONE.
HOW WOULD YOU HANDLE IT?

YOU FILTHY TRAITOR.

I WONDER IF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN RAN UP AGAINST THIS SORT OF PROBLEM.
AT FIRST HE JUST WANTED TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS.
BUT AS HE KEPT TRYING TO FIX MINOR DAMAGE...

STILL ...
...I MAY HAVE BEEN THINKING OF THIS SORT OF THING ALL ALONG.

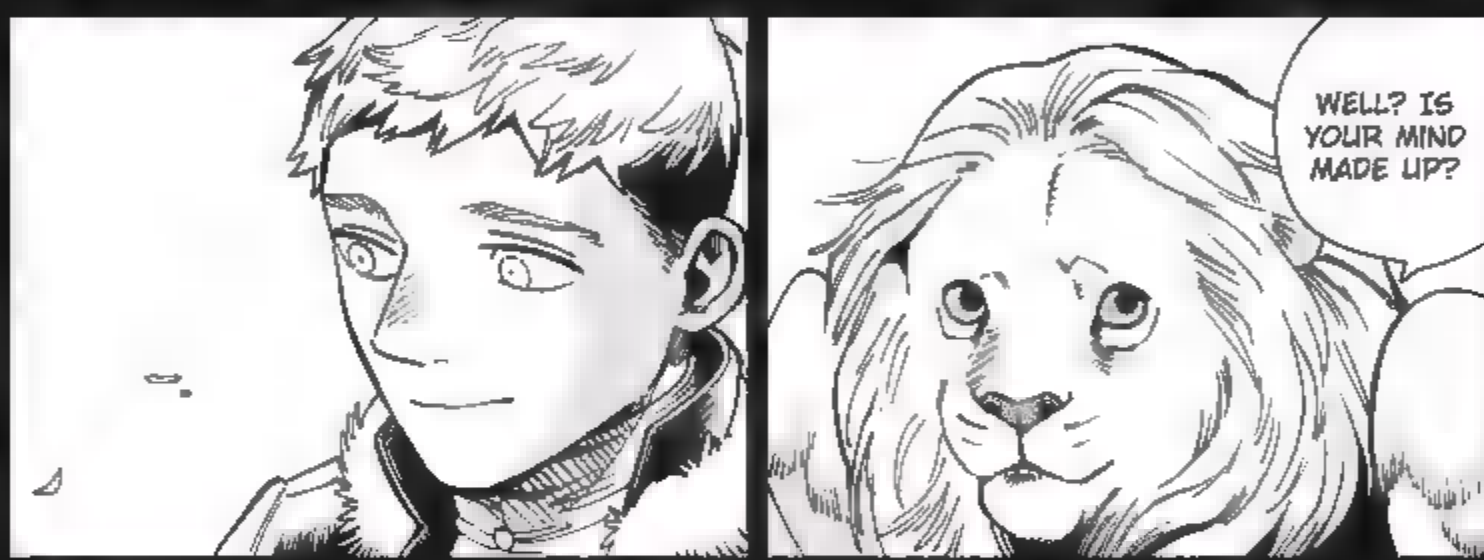
DOES IT DISPLEASE YOU NOW?
HM...

...FRANKLY, THIS PLACE STILL ISN'T A UTOPIA.
THE PEOPLE ARE POOR, AND THERE'S A LOT OF CONFLICT.

I GET THE FEELING THIS PLACE COULD MAKE THAT WISH COME TRUE.
IF THERE'S A WORLD WHERE WE CAN COEXIST WITH MONSTERS, I WANT TO [redacted] IT.

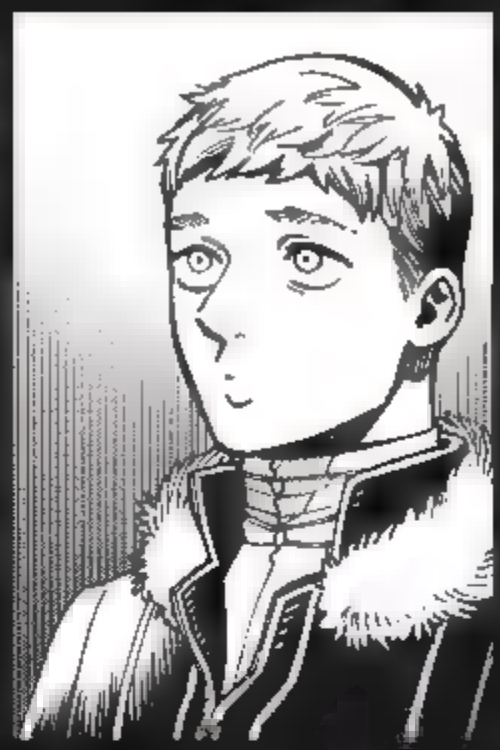
WE'RE ALL CREATURES FROM THE SAME WORLD, YET ALL WE CAN DO [redacted] KILL EACH OTHER.
I FOUND THE DYNAMIC WEIRDLY FRUSTRATING, AND I WONDERED IF I COULD CHANGE IT SOMEHOW.
...EVEN IF ONLY BY USING THEM AS FOOD.

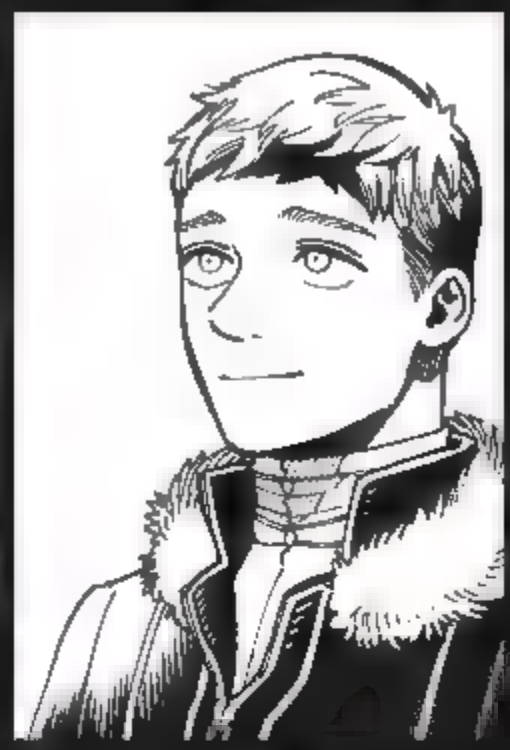
I'VE REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU.
YOU ARE AN INTER-ESTING MAN.
HEH!


WELL? IS YOUR MIND MADE UP?

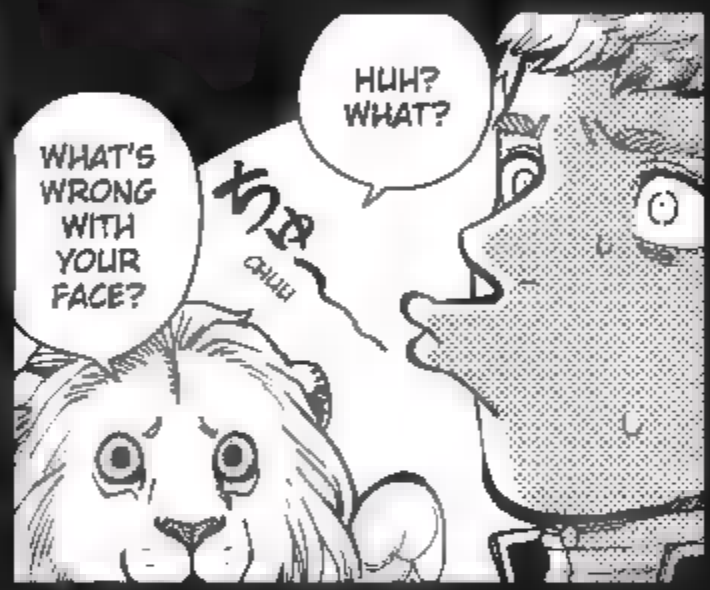
...YES.
I'D LIKE TO SEE HOW THIS WORLD PLAYS OUT.

ちゅ
CHUU (SUCK)
ちゅ
CHUU





SUDDENLY THERE'S SOMETHING SWEET IN MY MOUTH.
I FEEL ALL WARM.
WHAT IS THIS?
IT'S GOOD.

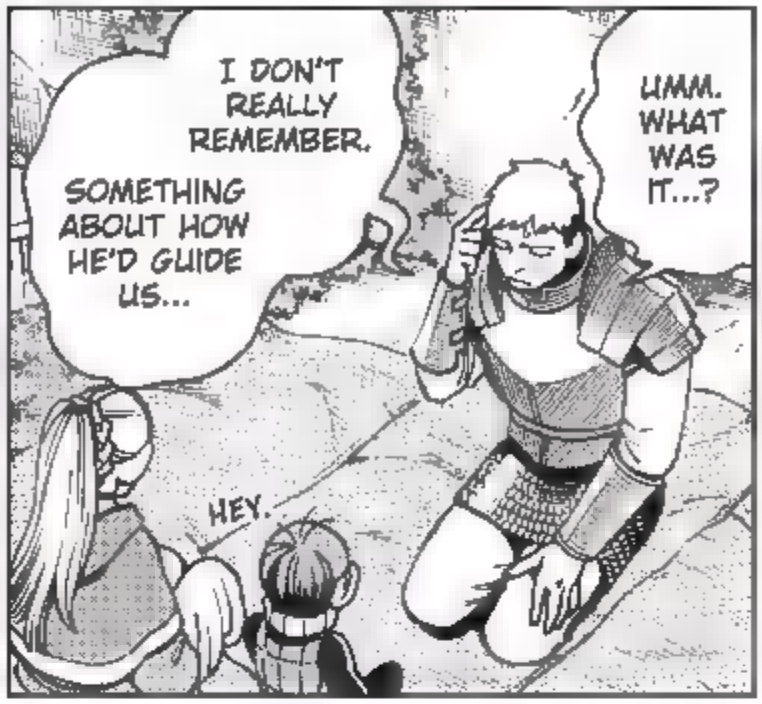

HUH? WHAT?
ちゅ
CHUU
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR FACE?

YOU'LL WAKE UP SOON.
YOU MAY LOSE MOST OF YOUR MEMORIES OF THIS DREAM.
HOWEVER, DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU FELT HERE.

GUNYA (WARP)

CHUU CHUU
ちゅ ちゅ
OUR TIME'S ALMOST UP.

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, LAIOS.
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOON, LAIOS!
BEWARE THE CANARIES.
CANAR-IES?
A WORD OF WARNING...
WAH!


I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
SOMETHING ABOUT HOW HE'D GUIDE US...
UMM. WHAT WAS IT...?
HEY.

—WELL? YOU SAID YOU TALKED WITH THE WINGED LION.
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

WHAT ELSE DO YOU REMEMBER?
UM...

THEN IT REALLY WAS THE WINGED LION'S POWER THAT OPENED THAT DOOR.

HE SAID HE WATCHED US THROUGH KENSUKE.
UH... OH, RIGHT. KENSUKE.

THERE WAS A WYVERN-EGG OMELET FOR BREAKFAST.
I ATE A RAW BAROMETZ...
IN THE DREAM, NOBODY MINDED EATING MON-STERS.

IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A FEVER-INDUCED NIGHT-MARE.
IT WAS FUN.
IT WAS REALLY FUN.

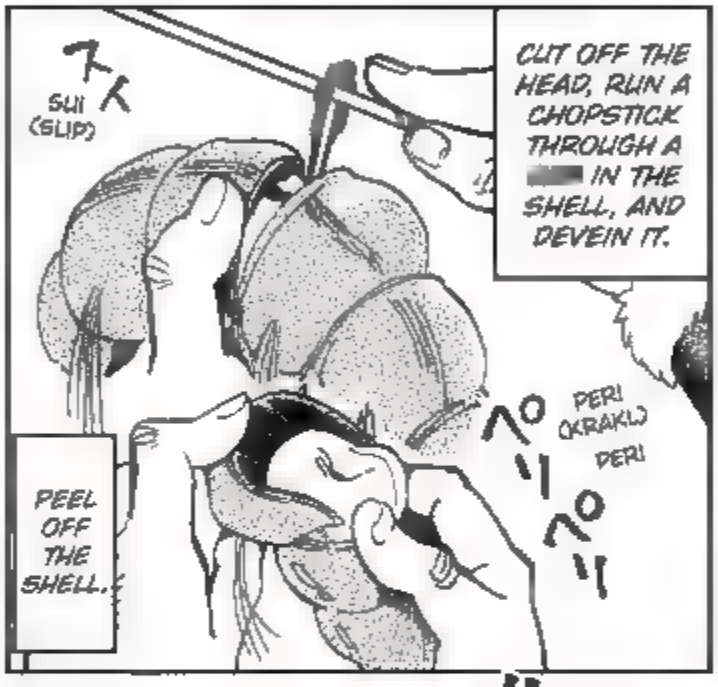
JUST THAT IT WAS FUN.

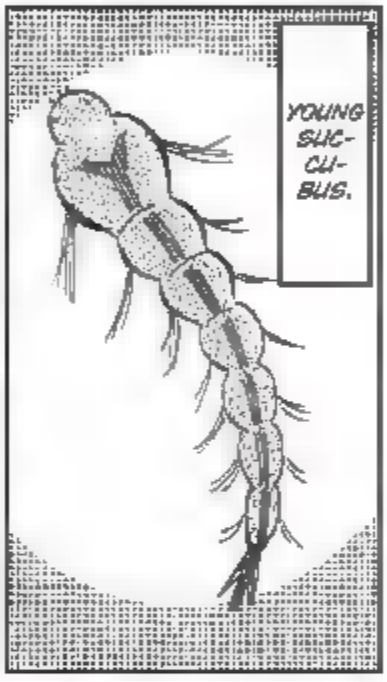
DON (BAM)
NIGHT-MARE.

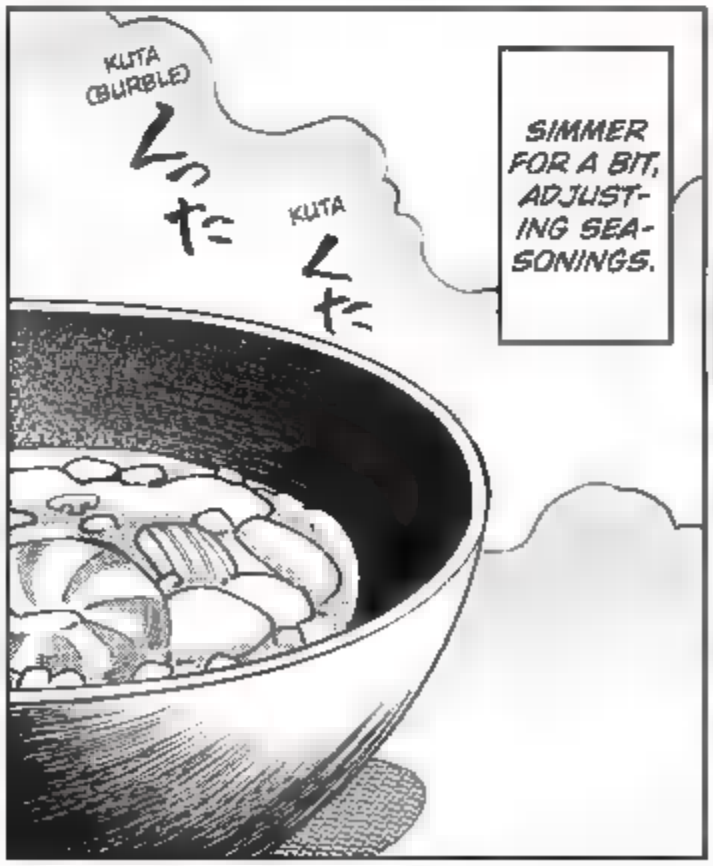
LET'S EAT!
IT MAY BE BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T QUITE REGAINED ALL YOUR LOST LIFE FORCE.

ONLY, SINCE IT WAS A DREAM, I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY EATEN A THING...
I'M SORT OF HUNGRY.

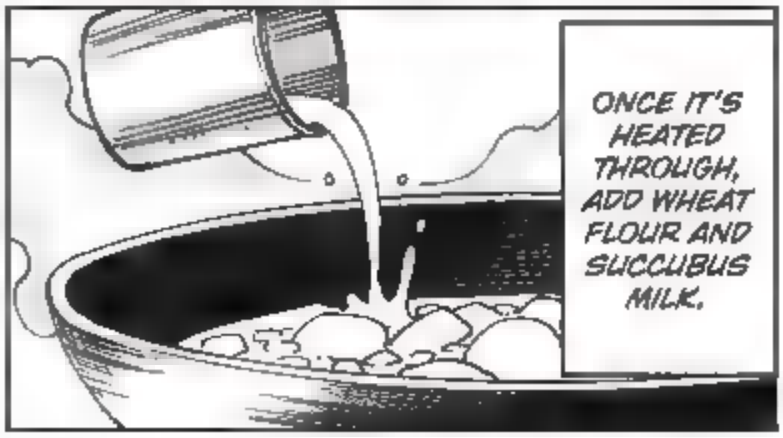
KNEAD WITH SALT, PAT DRY.

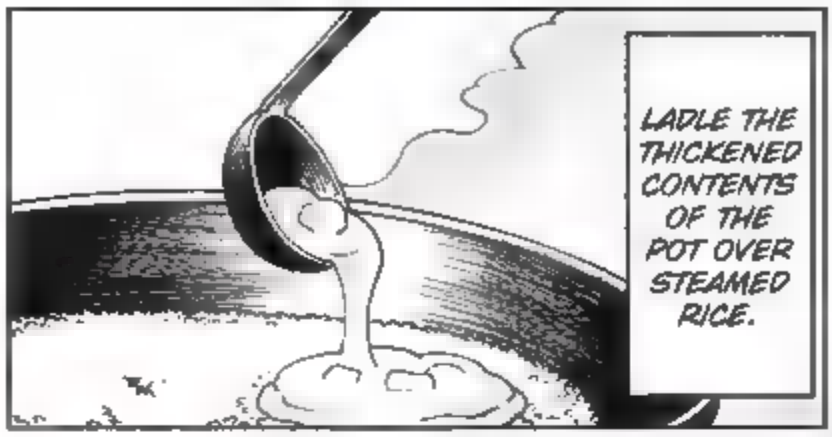

SUI (SLIP)
CUT OFF THE HEAD, RUN A CHOPSTICK THROUGH A [redacted] IN THE SHELL, AND DEVEIN IT.
PEEL OFF THE SHELL.
PERI (KRAK) PERI

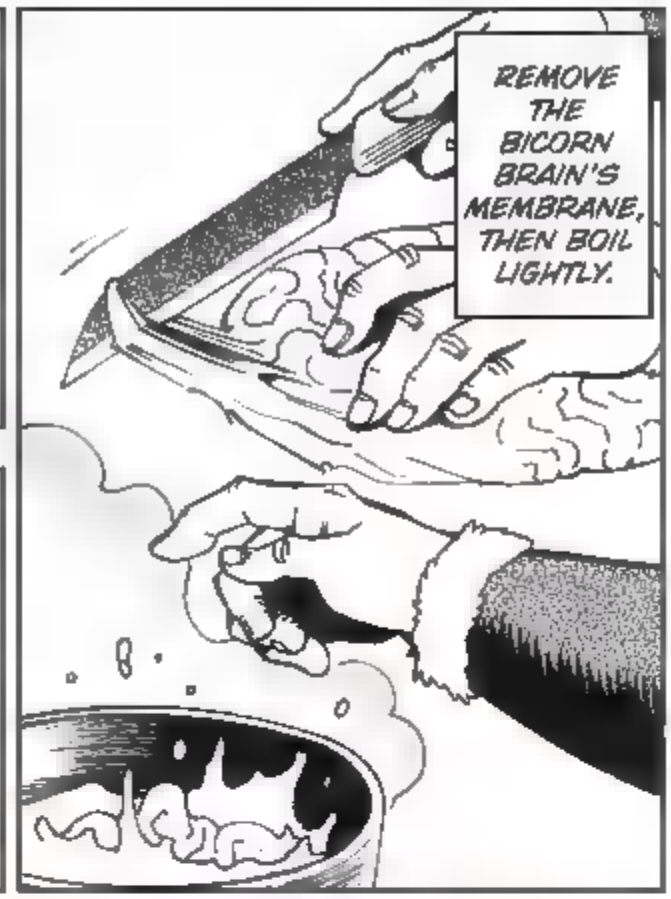

YOUNG SUC-CU-BUS.

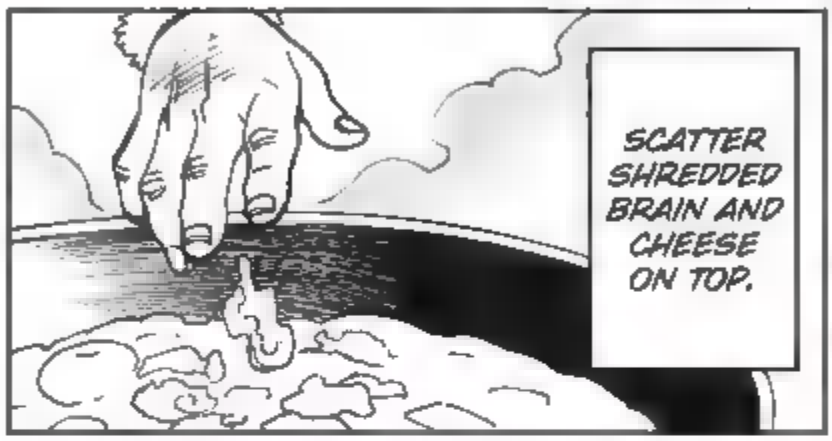

KUTA (BURBLE)
KUTA
SIMMER FOR A BIT, ADJUST-ING SEA-SONINGS.

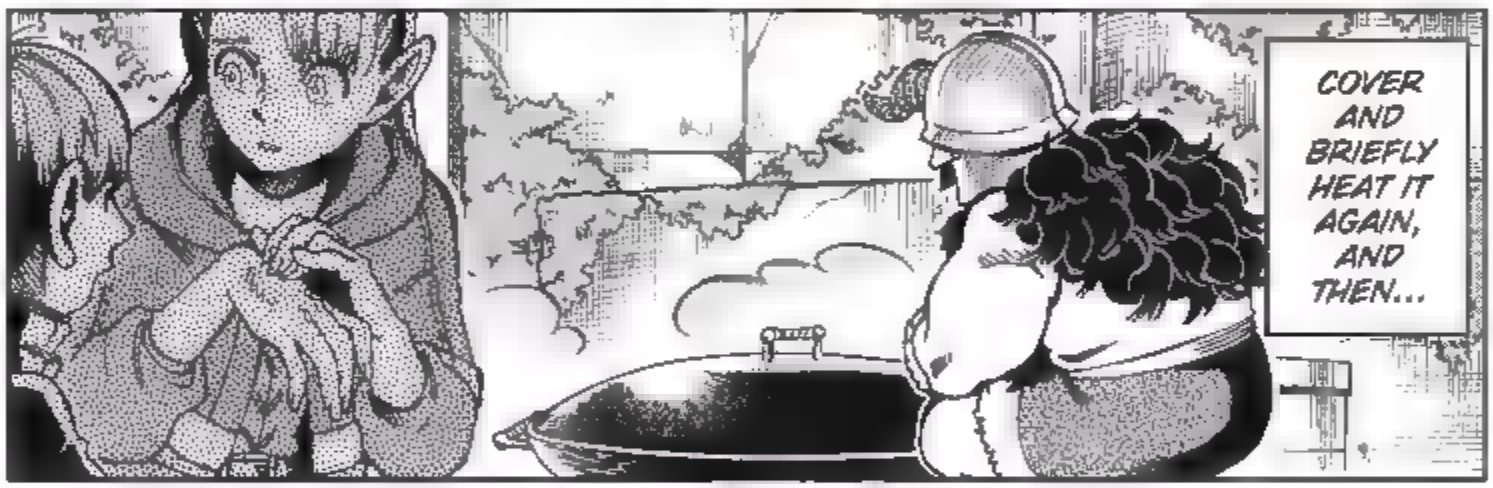
JYA (SIZZLE)
CUT UP VEGETA-BLES AND STIR-FRY WITH THE LARVA MEAT.

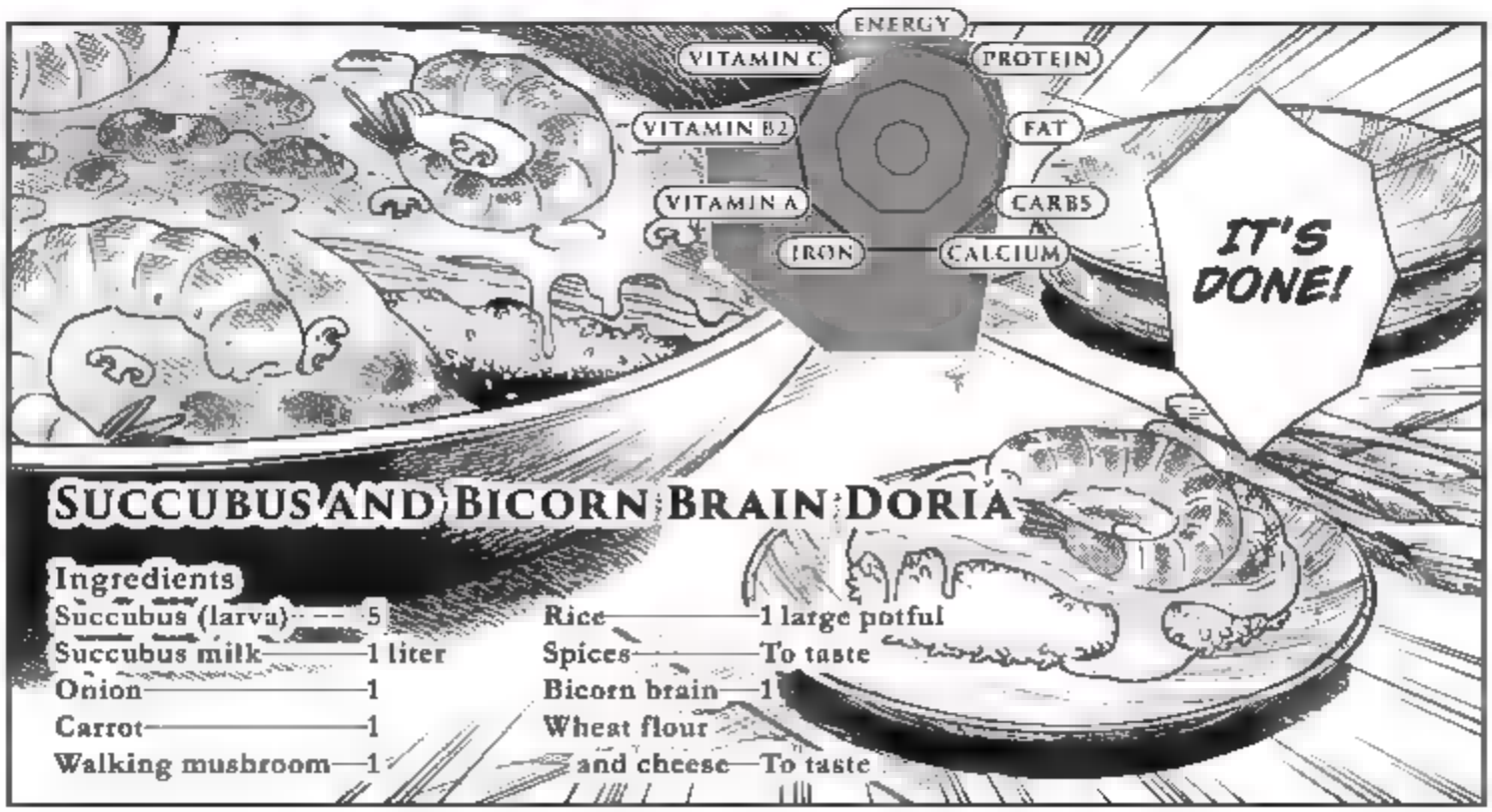

ONCE IT'S HEATED THROUGH, ADD WHEAT FLOUR AND SUCCUBUS MILK.











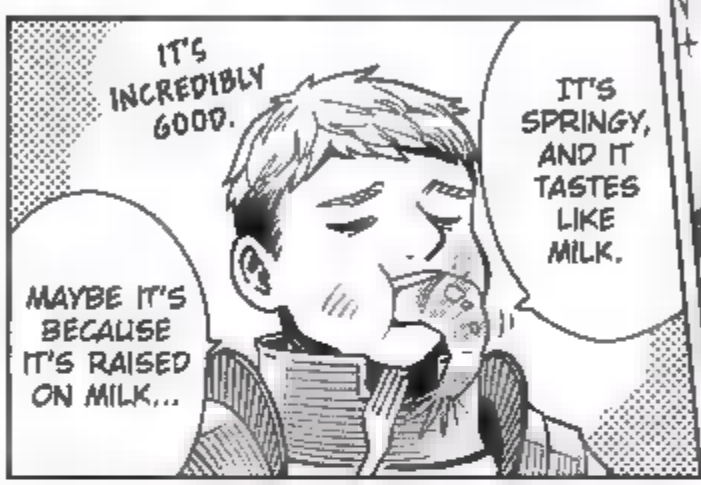
SUCCUBUS AND BICORN BRAIN DORIA

Ingredients

Succubus (larva)	5
Succubus milk	1 liter
Onion	1
Carrot	1
Walking mushroom	1
Rice	1 large potful
Spices	To taste
Bicorn brain	1
Wheat flour and cheese	To taste

I'VE NEVER EATEN LARVA BEFORE.

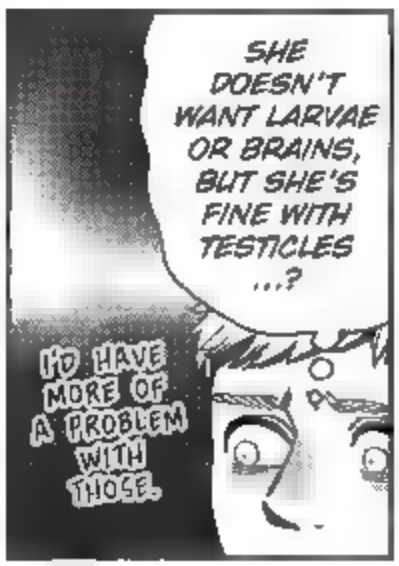
OOOOH!


IT'S INCREDIBLY GOOD.
IT'S SPRINGY, AND IT TASTES LIKE MILK.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT'S RAISED ON MILK...

...NOT BAD AT ALL.

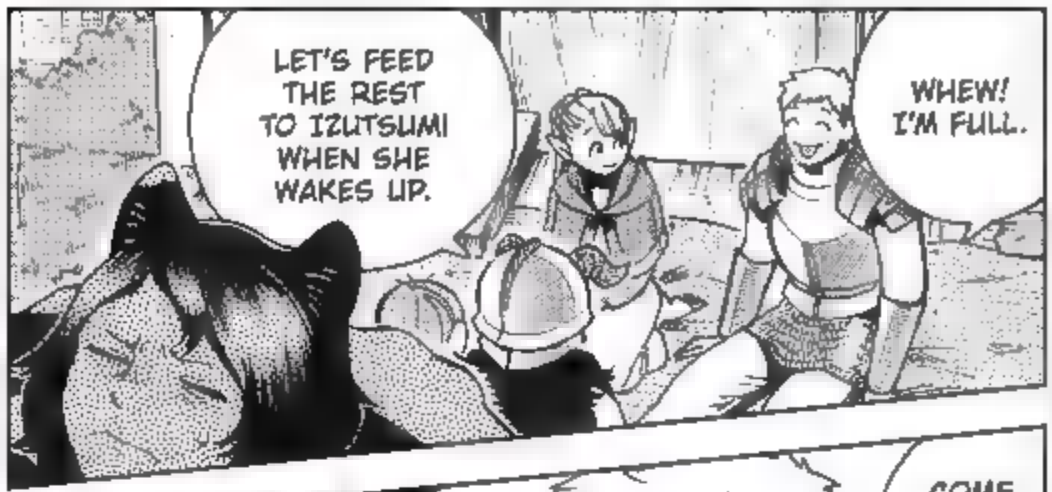
NO REALLY, THIS IS...

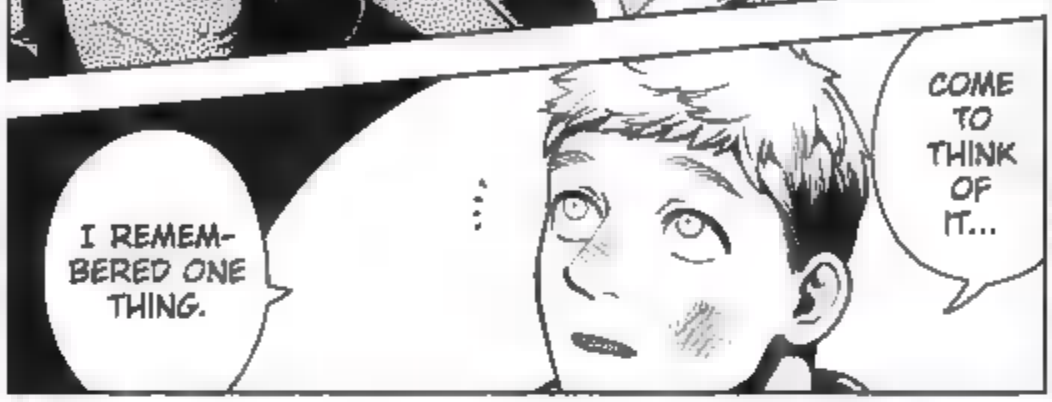
IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOU WON'T LAST.
YOU TOO, MARCILLE AND CHIL-CHUCK.


SHE DOESN'T WANT LARVAE OR BRAINS, BUT SHE'S FINE WITH TESTICLES ...?
I'D HAVE MORE OF A PROBLEM WITH THOSE.

SHIRA-KO?
YOU'VE NEVER HAD IT?
THEY PUT IT IN SOUPS.
IT'S FISH TESTI-CLES.

BRAIN IS ODDLY MILD TASTING.
HMFF!
IF YOU THINK OF IT AS SHIRAKO, IT'S JUST FINE.


LET'S FEED THE REST TO IZUTSUMI WHEN SHE WAKES UP.
WHEW! I'M FULL.


I REMEMBERED ONE THING.
...
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WHAT WAS IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, THOUGH.
IT'S WHAT THE WINGED LION SAID RIGHT AT THE END.

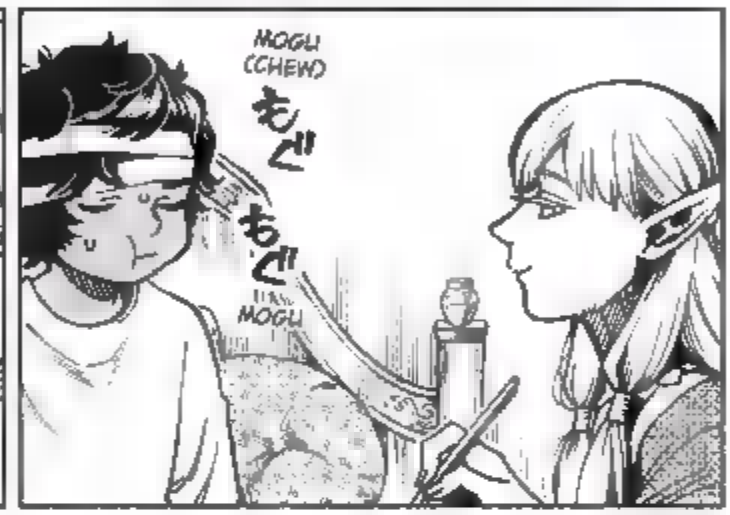
"BEWARE OF THE CANARIES."

PAKU
CRUNCH
ぱく

ALL RIGHT, KABRU. SAY "AAAAH."

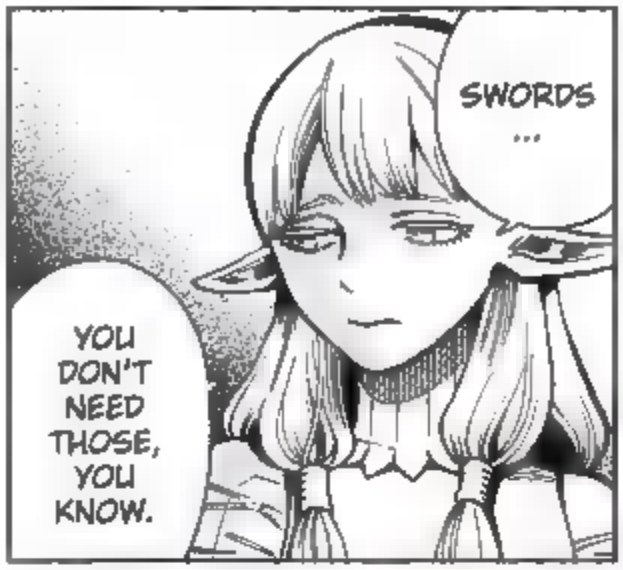
I TOLD YOU...
GUI
CRUSH
ぐい
ぐい

"AAAH."


MOGU
CHEW
もぐ
もぐ
MOGU

...NOTHING HURTS ANYMORE !!

CHAPTER 61


SWORDS ...
YOU DON'T NEED THOSE, YOU KNOW.

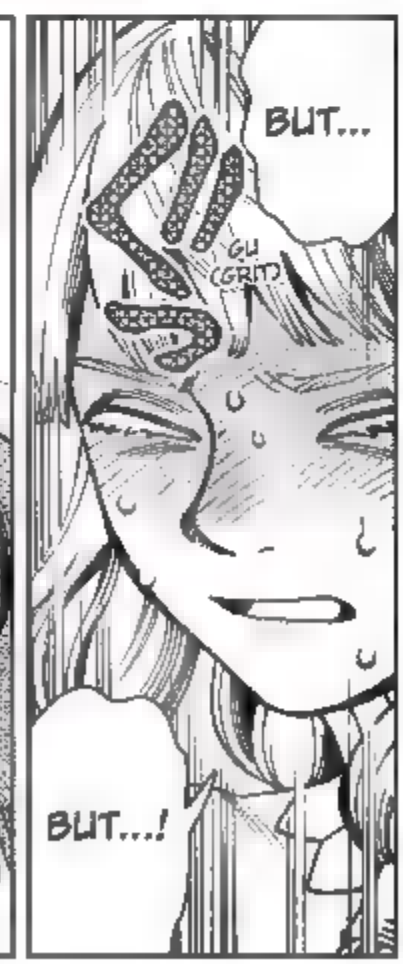
I JUST GOT A LITTLE SCRAPED UP!
YOU STILL NEED TO REST.
FORGET THIS! START TRAINING ME WITH A SWORD AGAIN!

—LIKE YOU.

I WANT TO MAKE SURE THE TRAGEDY THAT HIT MY TOWN WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
THAT MEANS I NEED TO GET STRONGER.

I WANT TO GO TO DUNGEONS.

ギュッ
GYUU (SQUEEZE)


BUT...
GU (GRIT)
BUT...!

MONSTERS OR TRAPS COULD HURT YOU.
YOU'D BE EXPOSED TO THE WORST KINDS OF PEOPLE.
YOU MIGHT FREEZE OR STARVE. THE MERE THOUGHT OF IT HURTS ME.

DUNGEONS ARE TERRIBLE PLACES.
Ill...

CHU

CHU (KISS)
CHU
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THE HORRORS OF THE DUNGEON.

IT'S WARM, AND THERE'S CAKE.
JUST STAY HERE ALWAYS.
PURSUE OTHER INTERESTS, ALL RIGHT?

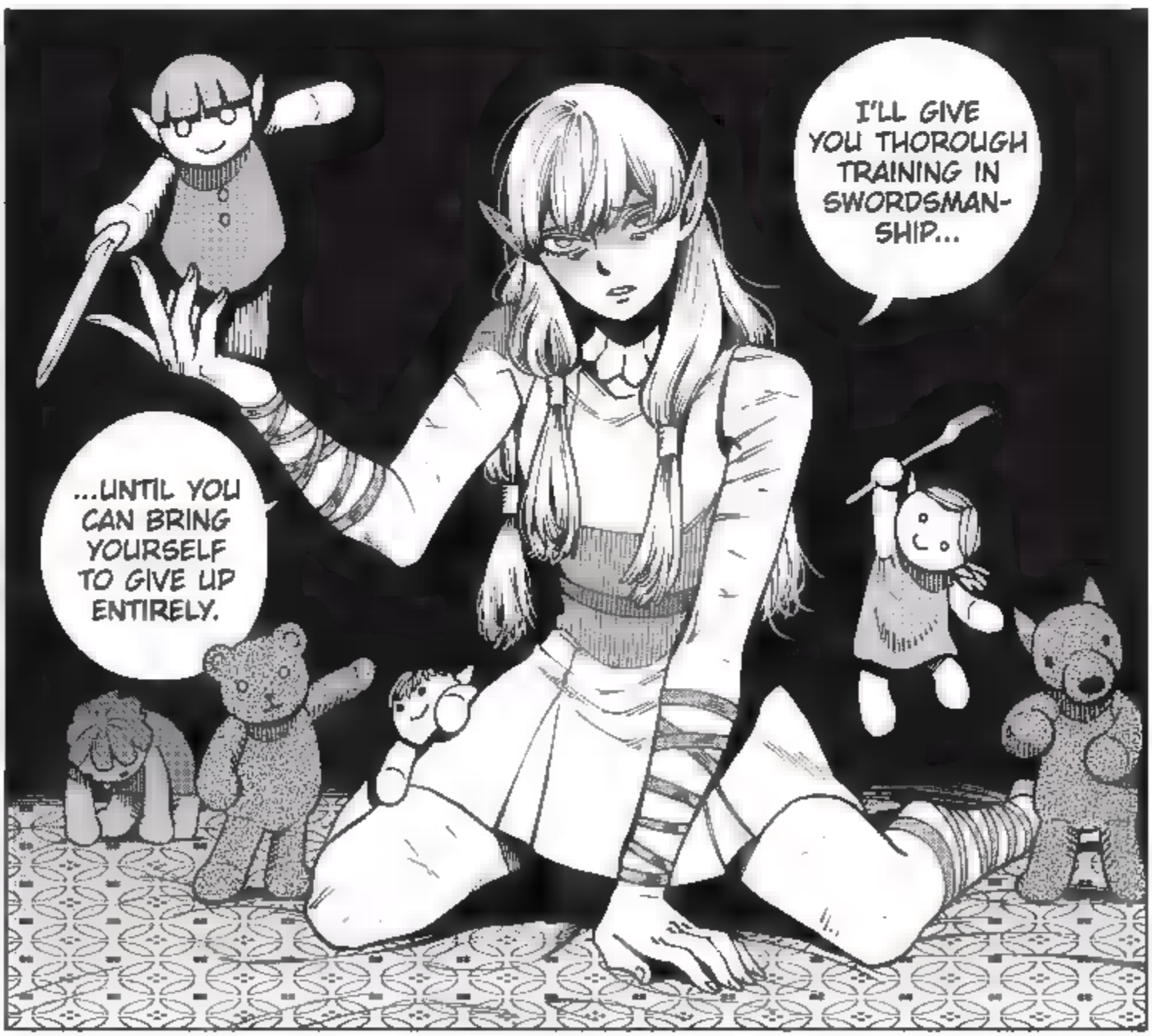
I CAN'T PRETEND I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE!
EVEN IF YOU TEACH ME NOTHING, I'LL STILL GO TO THE DUNGEON, I SWEAR!

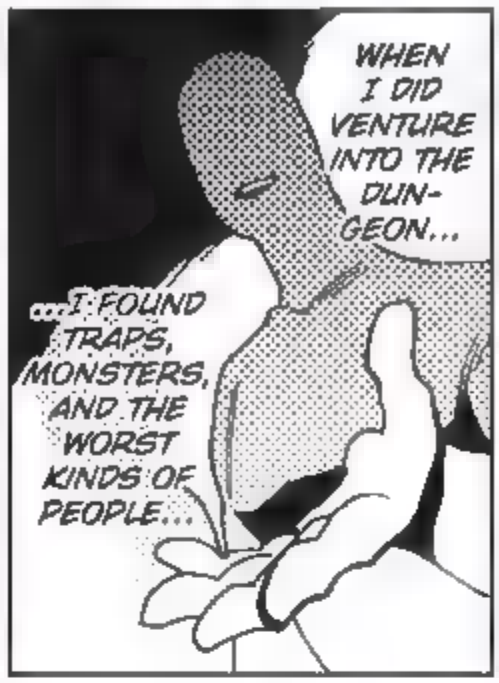
ARGH!

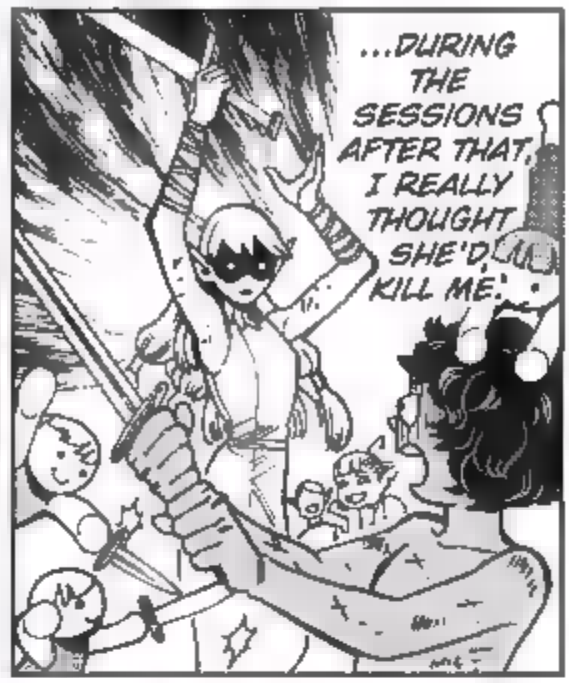
IF YOU'RE THAT DETER-MINED ...
...ALL RIGHT.

HNGH... NGH...
KABRU ...

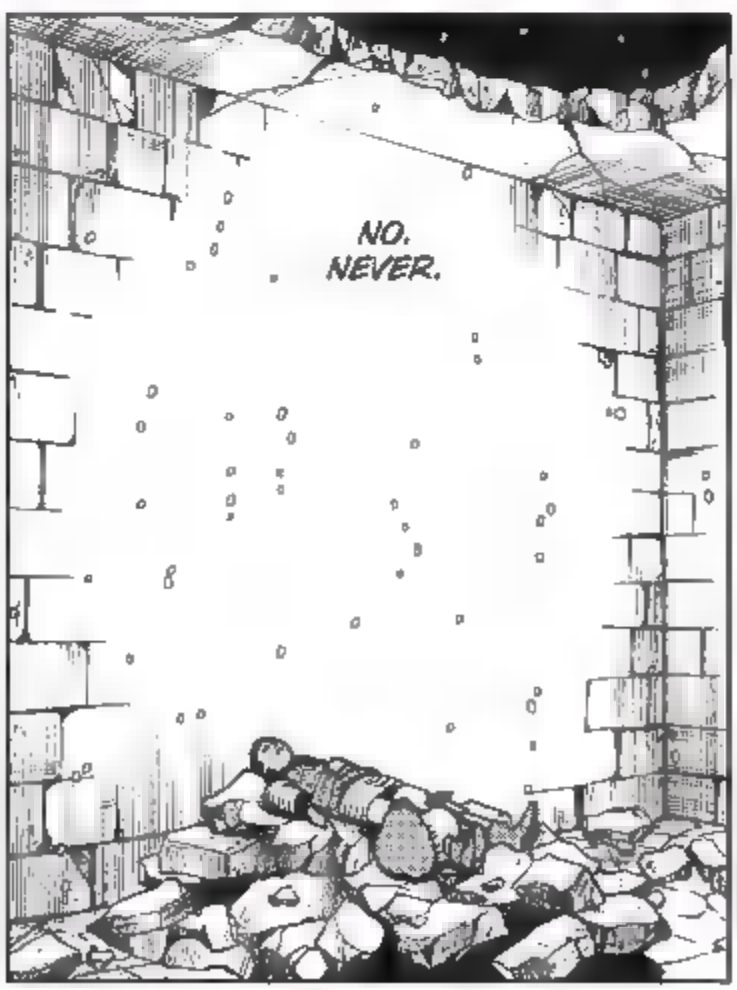
KATA (SHAKE)
KATA
BURU (TRMBL)
BURU


I'LL GIVE YOU THOROUGH TRAINING IN SWORDSMAN-SHIP...
...UNTIL YOU CAN BRING YOURSELF TO GIVE UP ENTIRELY.


WHEN I DID VENTURE INTO THE DUN-GEON...
...I FOUND TRAPS, MONSTERS, AND THE WORST KINDS OF PEOPLE...


...DURING THE SESSIONS AFTER THAT, I REALLY THOUGHT SHE'D KILL ME.

SNOW...
...AND I WAS UNBEARABLY COLD AND HUNGRY.
EVEN SO...


NO. NEVER.

...WOULD I GO BACK TO THAT ROOM, WHERE I CAN HAVE CAKE WHENEVER I WANT?

61. Roasted Walking Mushroom

WE FELL A LONG WAYS, BUT I'M NOT HURT.
!?
WHY IS A WALKING MUSH-ROOM ON—
ARE YOU AWAKE?

ガバ
GABA (BOLT)
WHERE DID THE ELF GO?
WE FELL DOWN THAT HOLE... AND THEN WHAT!?

OH NO. THE ONLY WEAPON I HAVE IS MY DAGGER.
CAN I GET IN CLOSE ENOUGH QUICK ENOUGH TO EVADE THAT TELE-PORTATION MAGIC!?

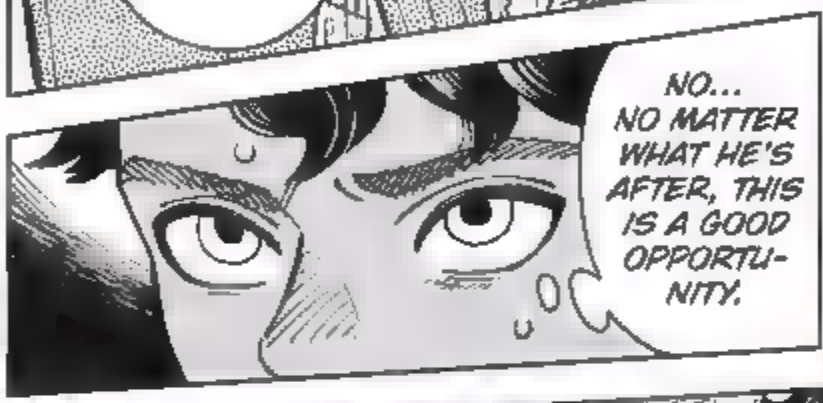
SUTA (TMP)
スタ
SUTA
スタ

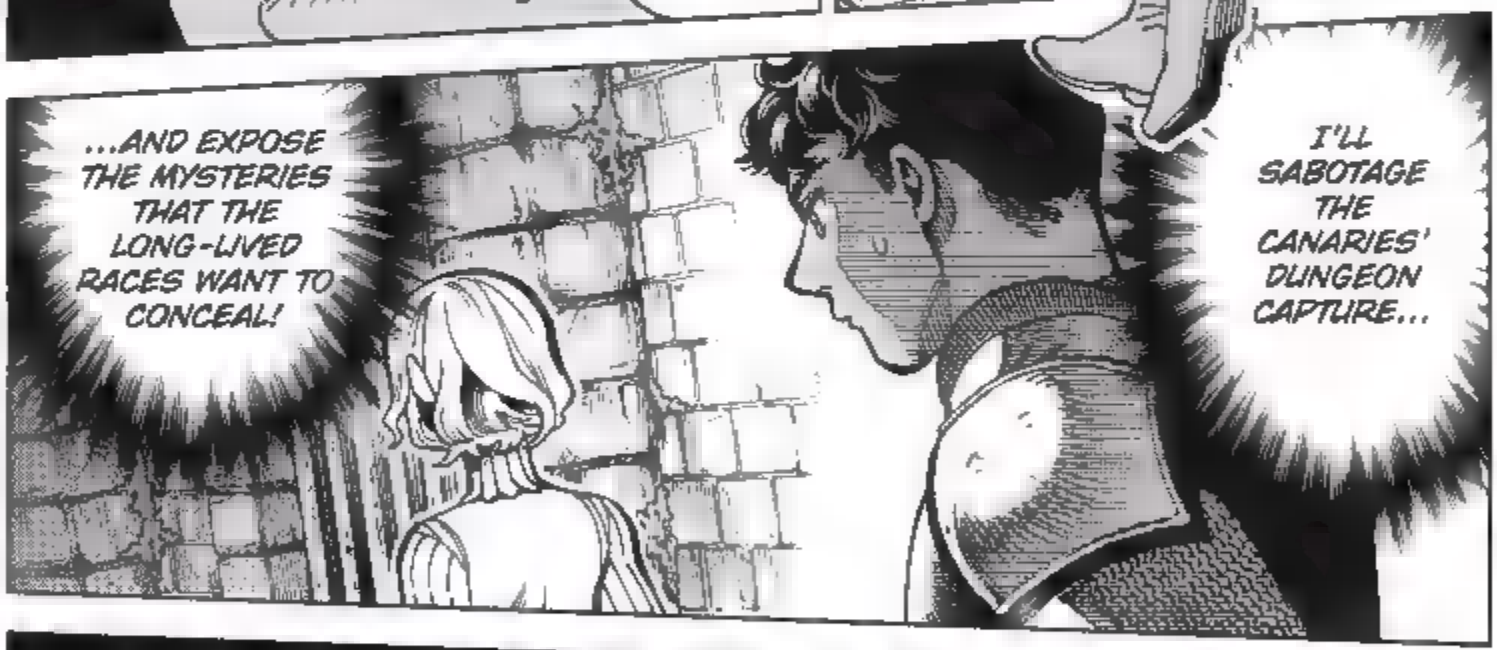
HUH?

クルリ
KURURI (TURN)
IT LOOKS AS IF THE LUNATIC MAGICIAN FELL ELSE-WHERE.
LET'S GO.

HE'S ACTING LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED.
WHAT'S THE POINT IN LETTING ME LIVE?
WHY TAKE ME ALONG?

SUTA
スタ
SUTA (STRIDE)
スタ


NO... NO MATTER WHAT HE'S AFTER, THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.

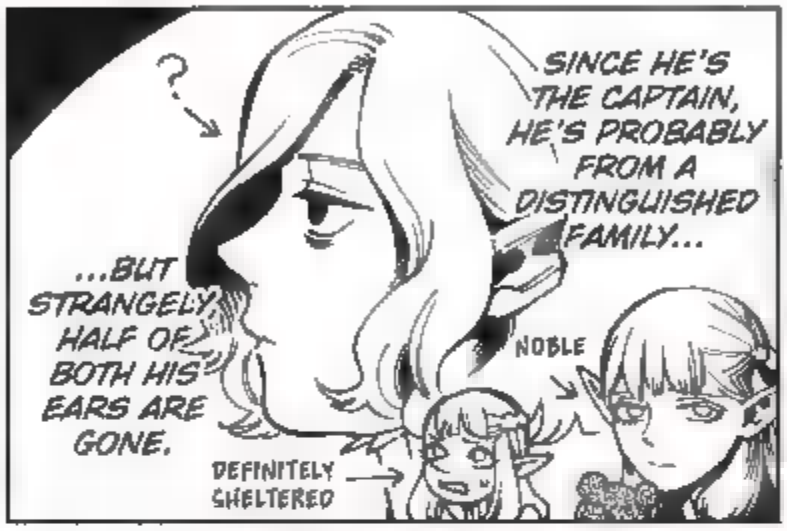

...AND EXPOSE THE MYSTERIES THAT THE LONG-LIVED RACES WANT TO CONCEAL!
I'LL SABOTAGE THE CANARIES' DUNGEON CAPTURE...

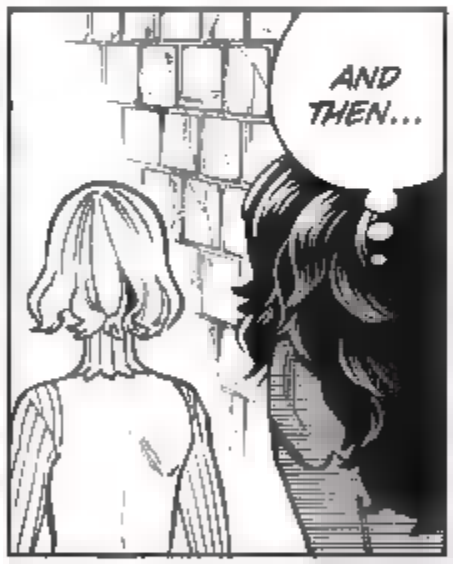
WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS HE?
SOUND HIM OUT.
FIND A WAY TO INGRATIATE MYSELF WITH HIM.

CAPTAIN MITHRUN OF THE CANARIES.

GUARD
CRIMINALS
CRIMINALS' EARS ARE NOTCHED.

ONE GUARD FOR EVERY TWO CRIMINALS
MOST CANARY MEMBERS ARE CRIMINALS WHO ILLEGALLY MEDDLED WITH ANCIENT MAGIC.
THE REMAINDER ARE GUARDS, THE CHILDREN OF NOBLE FAMILIES WHO VOLUNTEERED IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR LOYALTY TO THE COUNTRY.


?
SINCE HE'S THE CAPTAIN, HE'S PROBABLY FROM A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY...
...BUT STRANGELY, HALF OF BOTH HIS EARS ARE GONE.
NOBLE
DEFINITELY SHELTERED


AND THEN...

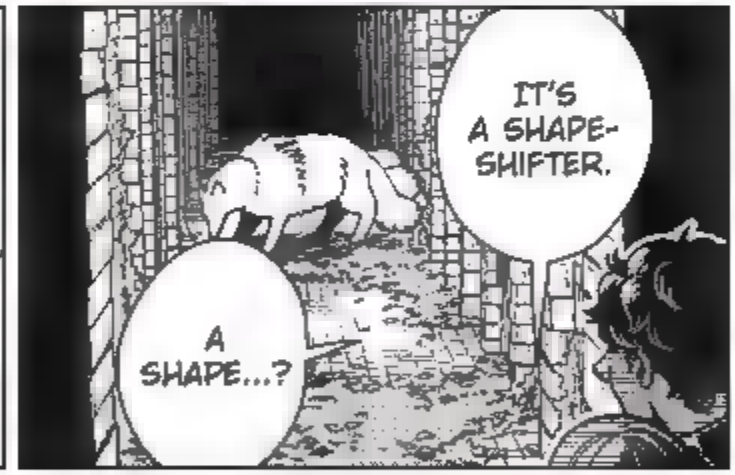
BAD WITH DIRECTION?
EARS CUT
EYES ARE BLACK? RARE FOR AN ELF
HOW OLD IS HE, ABOUT 180?
THE LACK OF ANY ACCENT MEANS HE'S FROM THE CENTRAL REGION.
180 OR OLDER
THRIL AME IGIN?
ABOUT 155 CM

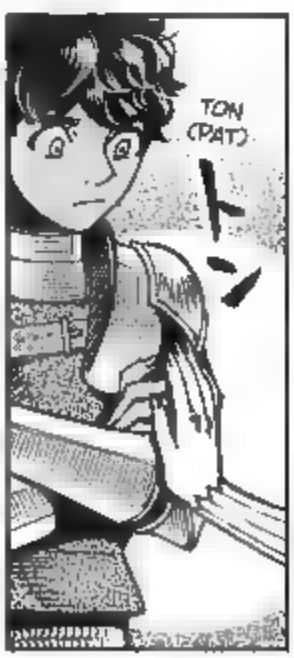
WAIT.
WHAT...

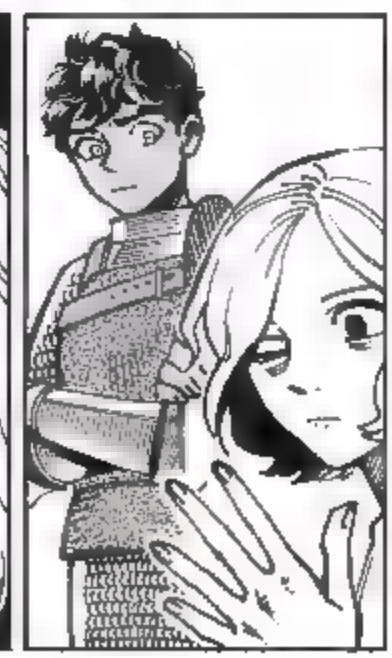
DON (WHUMP)

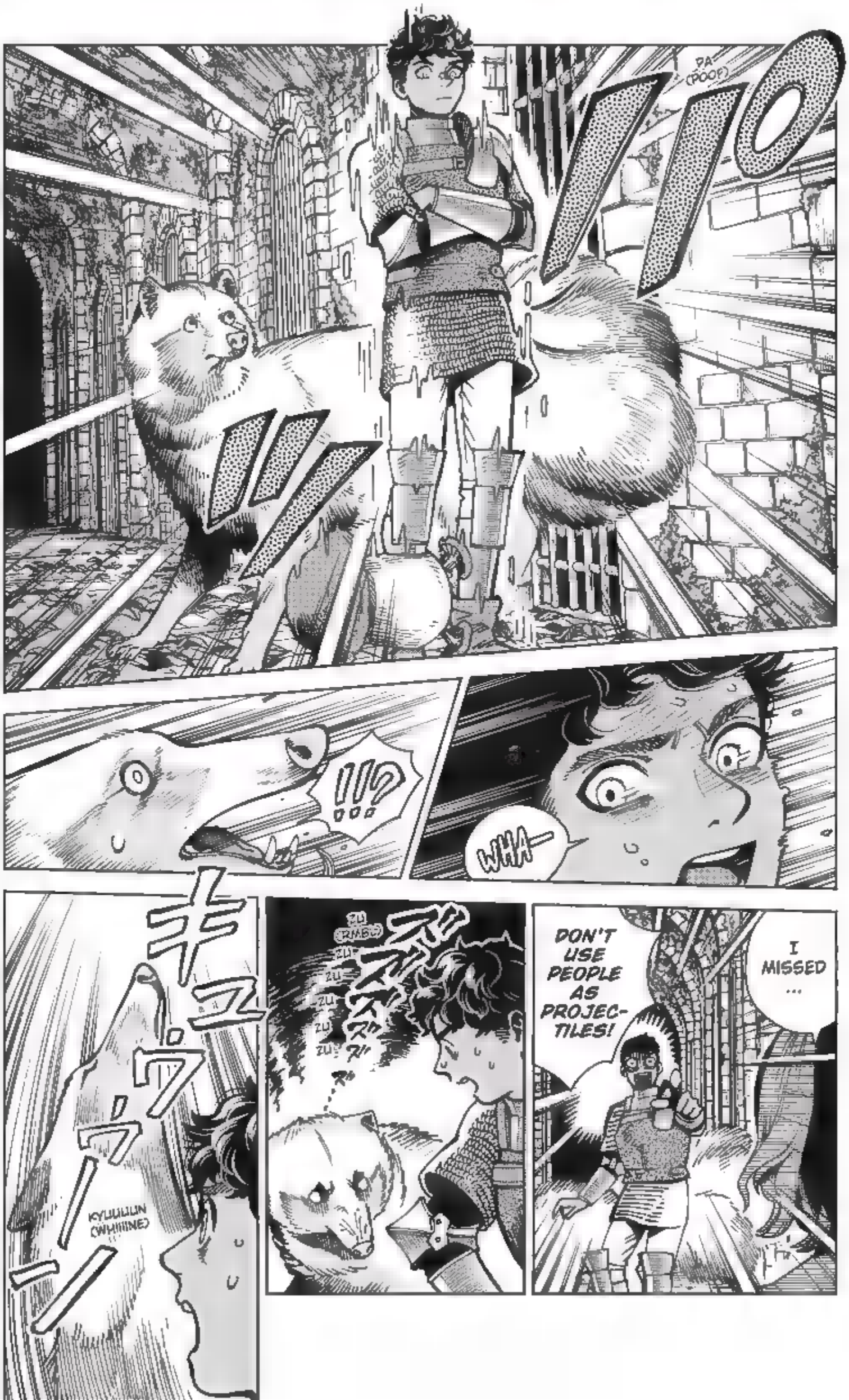
?
I'M WEIRDLY UNINTERESTED IN WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE IS.
DID I HIT MY HEAD OR SOMETHING?

KA (SNARF)
カリ
KA
カリ
GATSU (SCARF)
ガリ
GATSU
ガリ








PA (POOP)
!!?
WHA—
キュワワワーン
KYUUUUUN (WHIIIINE)
ZU (RMBO)
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
DON'T USE PEOPLE AS PROJEC-TILES!
I MISSED ...

WAAH!?

BASA (RUSTLE)

BASA

BASA

BASA

BASA

BASA

GIKU (FLINCH)

IT GOT US.

THEY READ THE MINDS OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM AND MAKE IDENTICAL COUNTER-FEITS.

SHAPESHIFTERS CREATE IMPOSTERS BASED ON A PERSON'S MEMORIES.

IDENTI-CAL?

IDENTI-CAL...

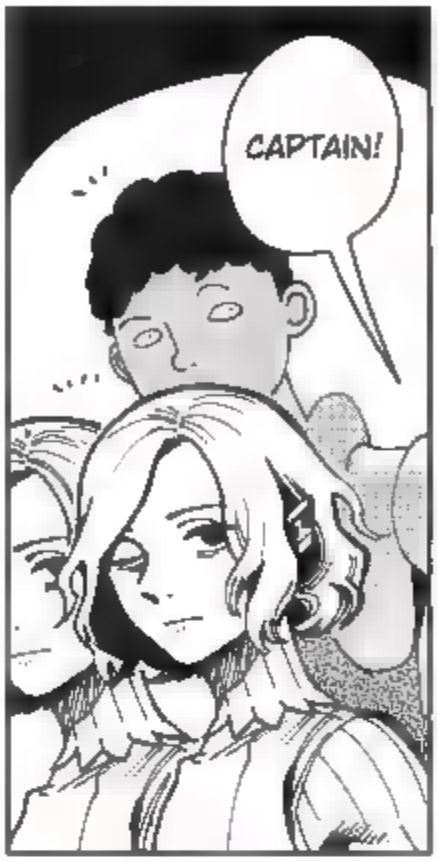
APPARENTLY THE CAPTAIN ISN'T INTERESTED IN ME AND HAS NO HIDDEN AGENDAS THAT INVOLVE ME.

...I SEE.

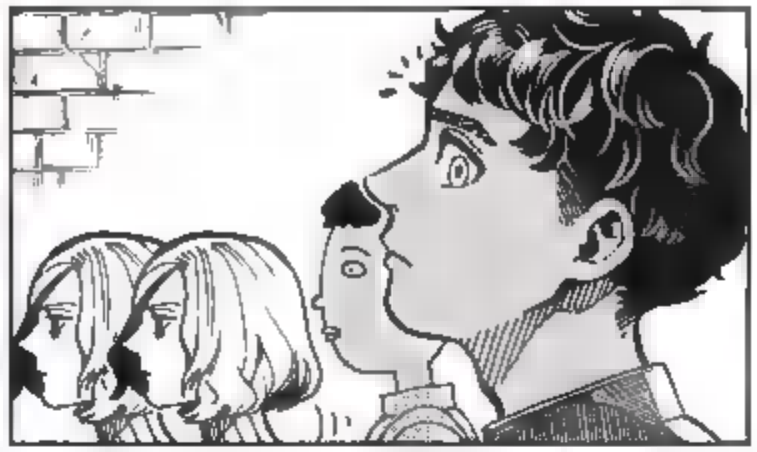
ZA (SHF)
THE MONSTER FLED, SO IF WE LEAVE THESE ALONE, THEY'LL DISAPPEAR BEFORE LONG.
LET'S GO.

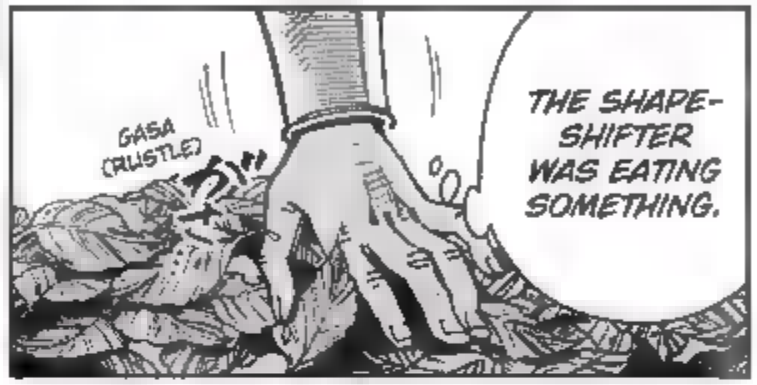
CAPTAIN MITHRUN!
THAT'S WHERE WE JUST CAME FROM.

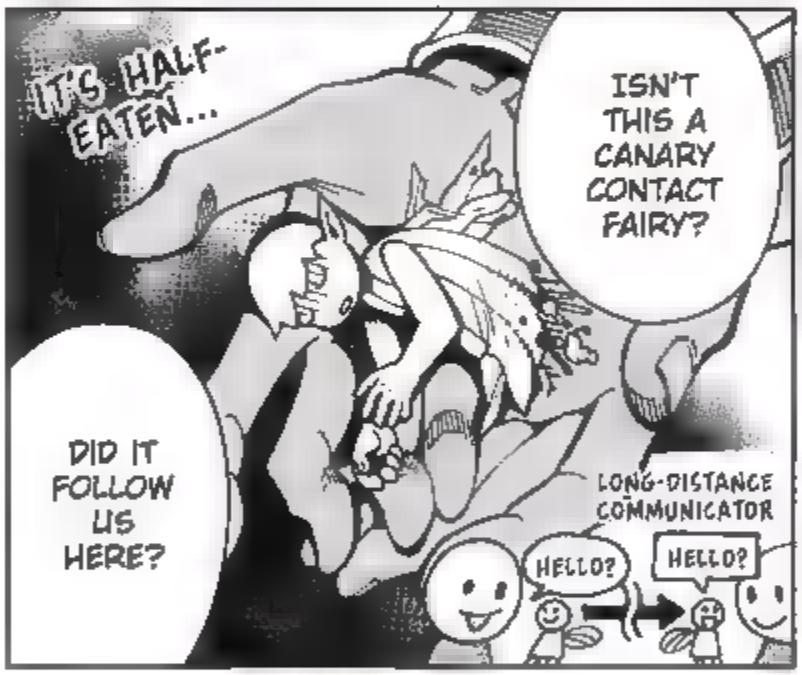
HAA...
THERE'S NO POINT IN BEING ON EDGE, THEN.


CAPTAIN!

OH!

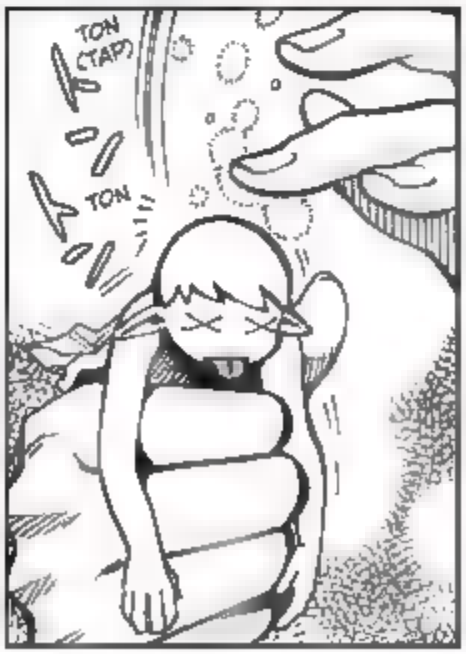


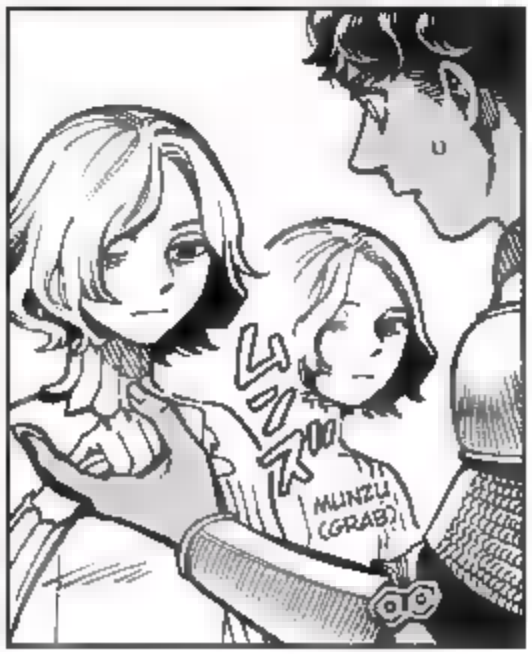

GASA (RUSTLE)
THE SHAPE-SHIFTER WAS EATING SOMETHING.

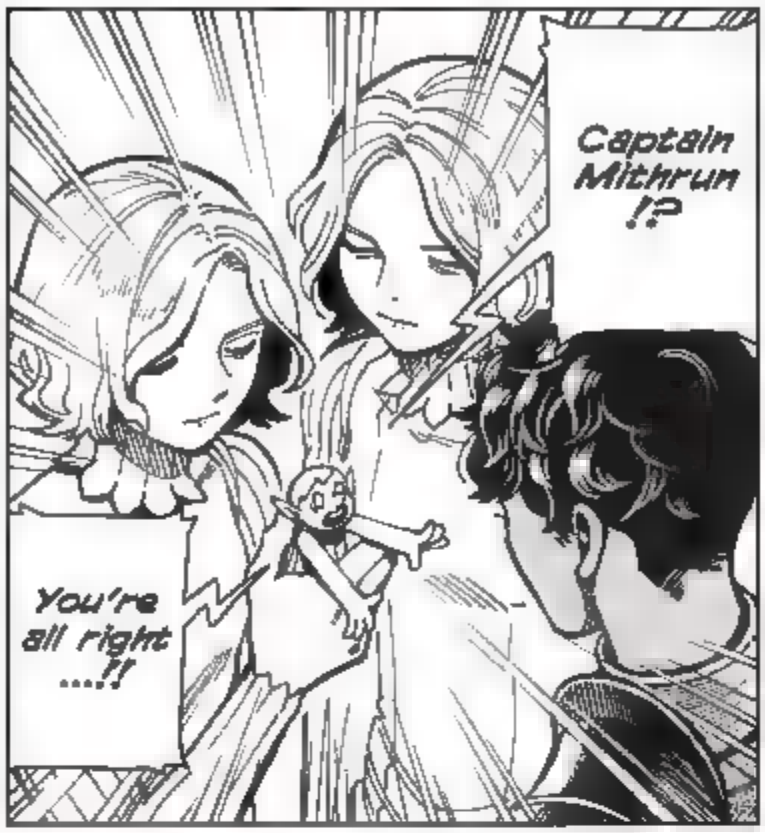

IT'S HALF-EATEN...
ISN'T THIS A CANARY CONTACT FAIRY?
DID IT FOLLOW US HERE?
LONG-DISTANCE COMMUNICATOR
HELLO?
HELLO?

LOOK...

HEY, PATTADOL. CAN YOU HEAR ME?


TON (TAP)
TON


MUNZU (GRAB)


Captain Mithrun !?
You're all right ....!!

Hah!

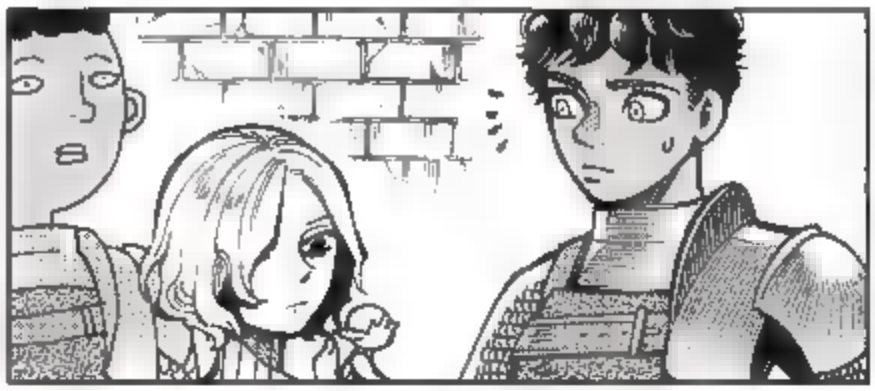
A SHAPESHIFTER ATE HALF THE FAIRY.
IT WON'T LAST LONG.
I see.

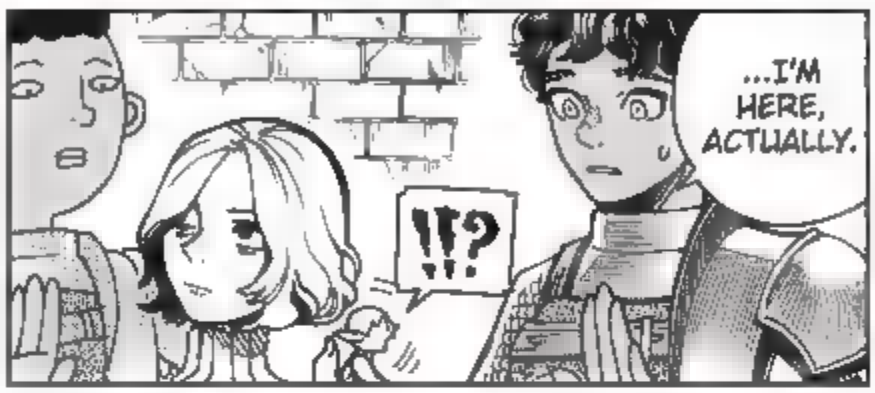
NO.
IT'S SOME-WHERE COLD.

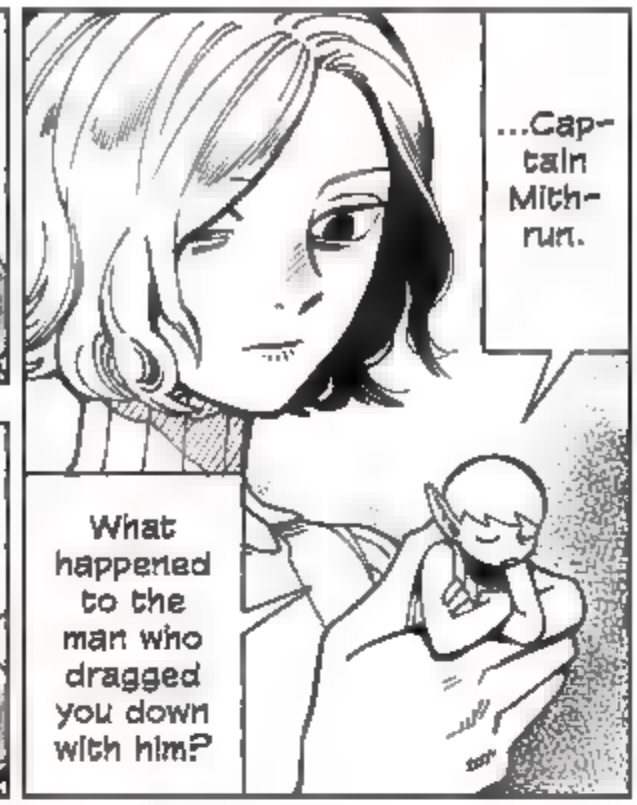
Where are you!?
What can you see?
Are you hurt!?

But then the Captain will...
.....

The hole's closing up.
HISO
HISO (WHISPER)
That's deep.
Below the sixth floor?
HISO
HISO
Even for Fleki's familiar, it'll take a week.
SLAH
SLAH
YADA YADA




...I'M HERE, ACTUALLY.
!!?


...Captain Mithrun.
What happened to the man who dragged you down with him?

...You said your name's Kabru?
We have an urgent favor to ask.

You brazen little—! You dare—!?
SHUT UP!
Stop it. There's no time.
DON'T YELL.

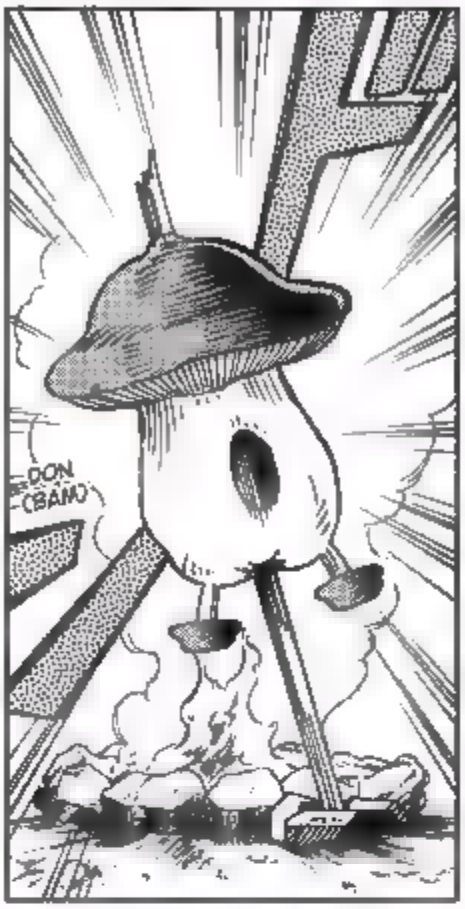
If you feed him properly...
...we'll overlook this incident.
Food in particular!
Three meals a day.
Of all the arbi-trary-
MMF!
BE QUIET.

Until we do, we'd like you to see to his needs.
It will be ■ week before we can come for the captain.

...So. Thanks for your help.
...we'll "entertain ourselves" with your companions.
However, if anything happens to the captain...
ONE WEEK...
IT'S DEAD.
CUTE GLOP
SEE TO HIS MEALS!?

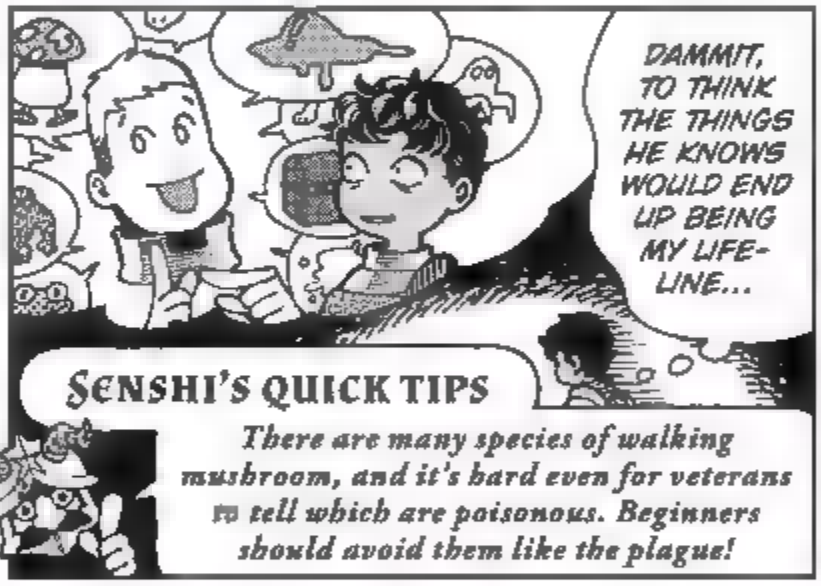
ぼやあ
BOYAAAAA
あ
PLEASE, NO...
BOYAA (BLURR)
ぼや
あ
I'VE NEVER COOKED IN MY...
MOYA (HAZE)
モヤ
MOYA
モヤ
AND WHERE WOULD I GET THE FOOD TO...

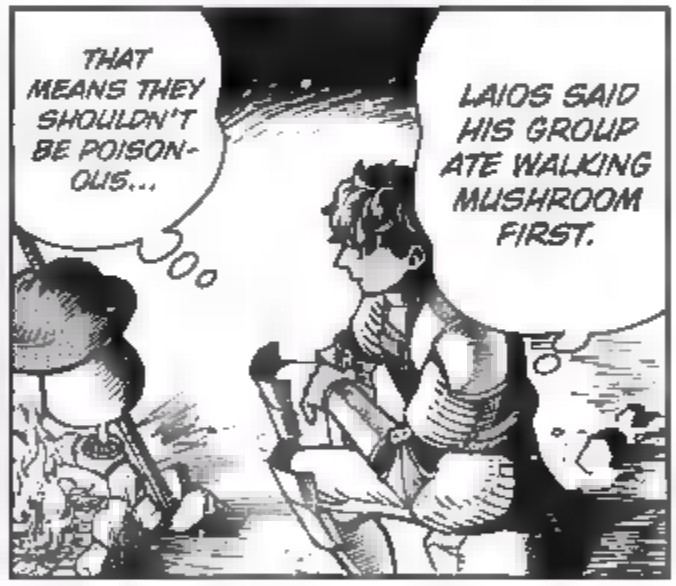
MADE OF HARPY EGGS!
HERE! IT'S A ROLLED OMELET
I DO NOT WANT TO END UP LIKE THAT GUY.
NO...! NO WAY! NEVER!!


DON
(BAM)

ブスリ
BUSURI
(SHUNK)

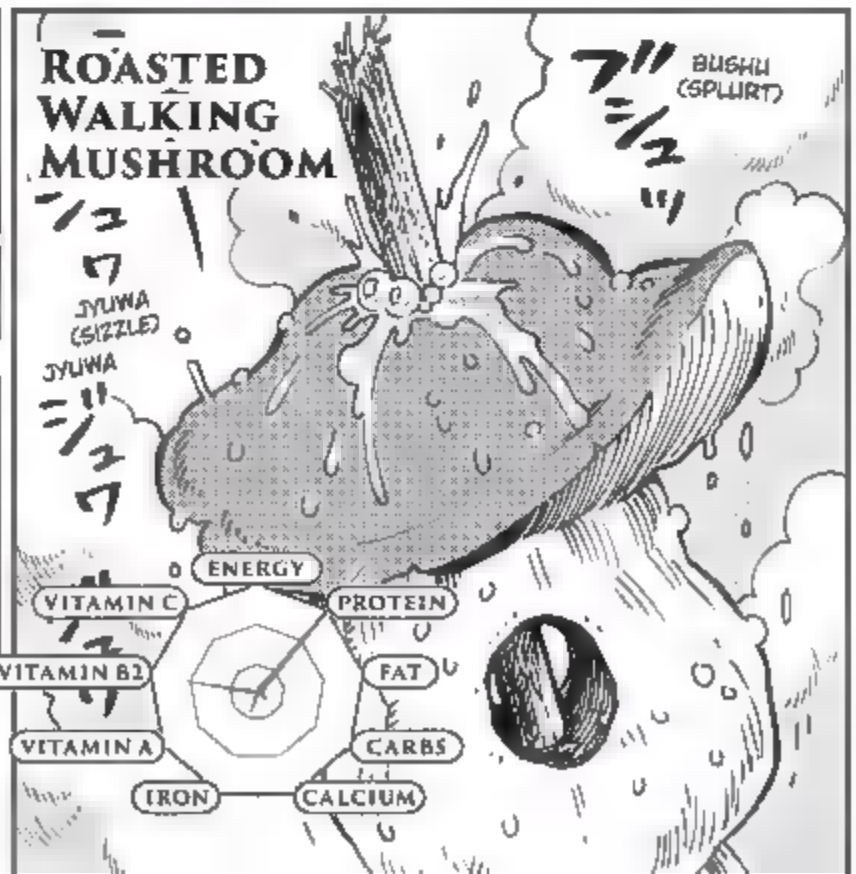
SUPO
(POP)
スポ


DAMMIT, TO THINK THE THINGS HE KNOWS WOULD END UP BEING MY LIFE-LINE...
SENSHI'S QUICK TIPS
There are many species of walking mushroom, and it's hard even for veterans to tell which are poisonous. Beginners should avoid them like the plague!


THAT MEANS THEY SHOULDN'T BE POISON-OUS...
LAIOS SAID HIS GROUP ATE WALKING MUSHROOM FIRST.

I FEEL SICK...
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
UGH...

HEY!
BUT...
FRANKLY, THEM TAKING SOMEONE HOSTAGE ISN'T REALLY ENOUGH TO MAKE ME WANT TO EAT THIS.


ROASTED WALKING MUSHROOM
BUSHU
(SPLURT)
JYUWA
(SIZZLE)
JYUWA
ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C

GA (GRAB)
I'LL DO ANY-THING...
...TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE DUNGEON!!

...CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
CAN YOU USE DETOX SPELLS OR RES-URRECTION MAGIC?
YES.

FWOO...

BUCHI
BUCHI (SNAP)
BUCHI

MUGYU (SKWISH)

HFF...
HFF...
HFF...

HAAAH...

...BUT WHILE IT'S AS HARD AS TREE BARK, IT'S WEIRDLY SPRINGY AND SLIMY...
...AND THE MOISTURE THAT OOZES OUT EVERY TIME I CHEW IS NASTY.
IT'S FLAVOR-LESS...
GOMU (CHAW)
GOMU
GOMU
GOMU
GOMU
GOMU

IT SEEMS EDIBLE ENOUGH.

GO AHEAD.

BIII (RIIIP)

I'M NOT HUNGRY.

SENSHI'S QUICK TIPS

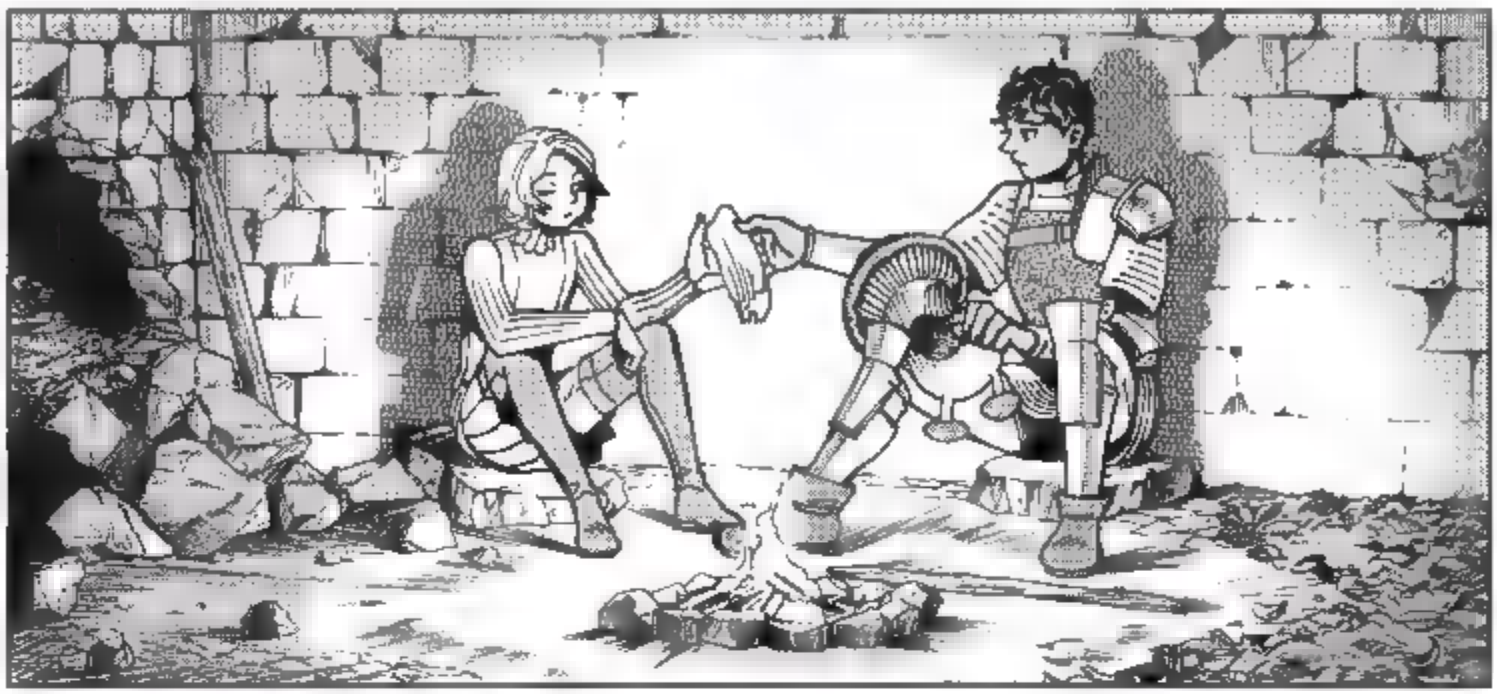
Trimming off around 3 cm of skin improves the texture!

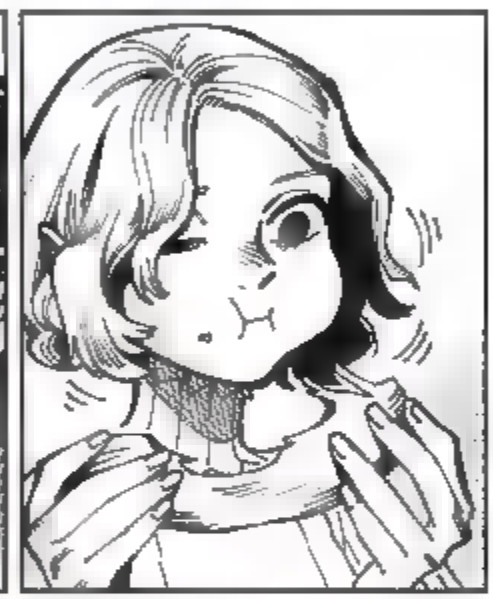
IT'S TOUGH.

IT REALLY IS, ISN'T IT...

PAKU CRUNCH

HERE, CAPTAIN. SAY "AAAAH."





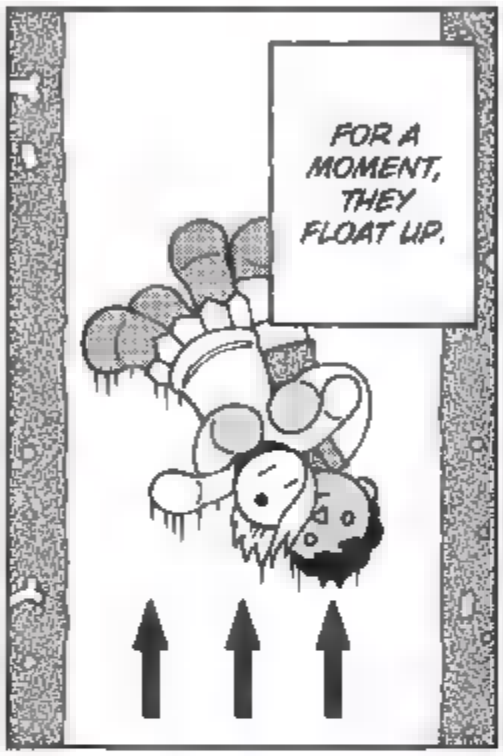
I'D EVEN SETTLE FOR MOSS OR RATS.
ANYTHING THAT ISN'T A MONSTER.
PACH! (SMACK)
PHEW...
WE NEED TO FIND WATER... AND SOME OTHER KIND OF FOOD.

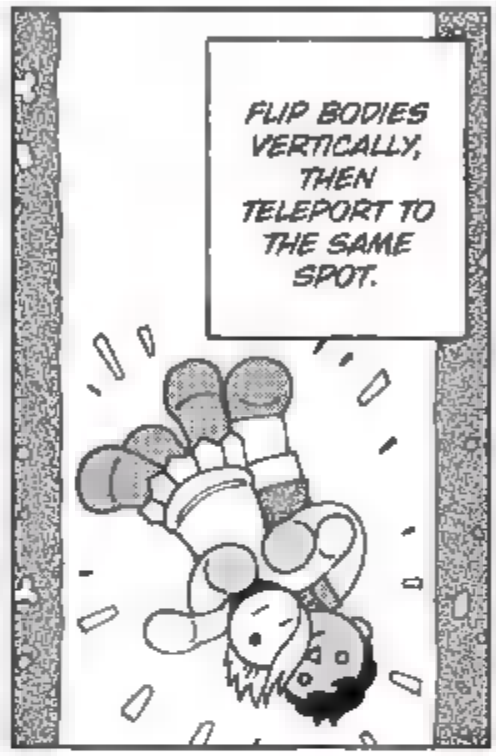
LITO (DOZE)

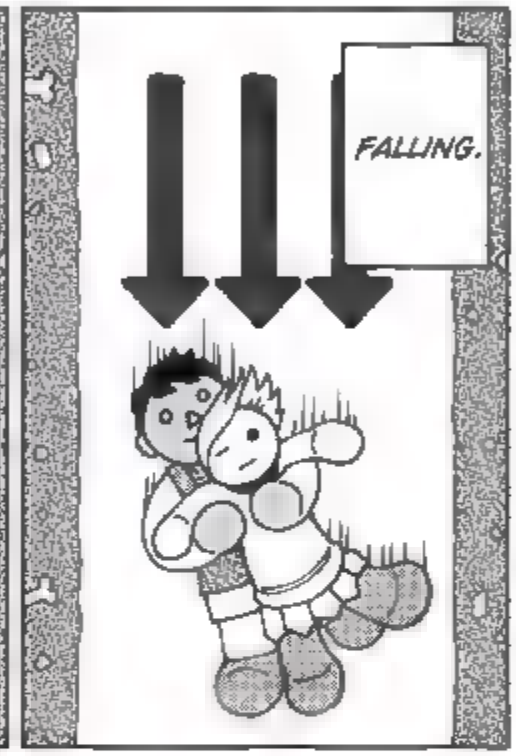
...STILL, THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL LAST A WHOLE WEEK ON THIS.

PAKU (MUNCH)
PAKU
I USED TELEPORTATION TO KILL OUR MOMENTUM.
MEANING ...?

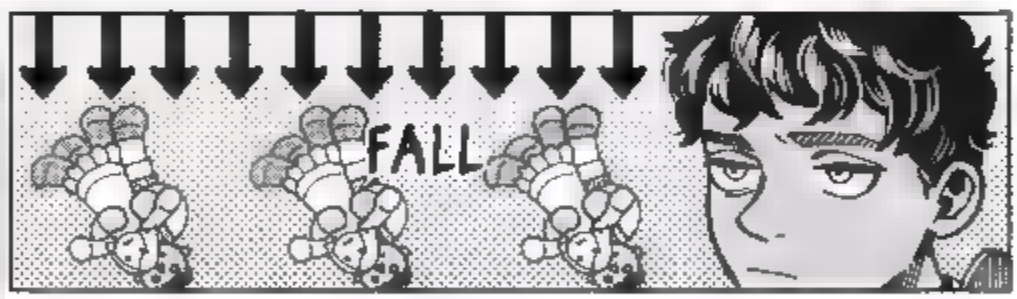
COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW DID WE MANAGE TO LAND WITHOUT GETTING HURT?
BURU
BURU (SHAKE)


FOR A MOMENT, THEY FLOAT UP.

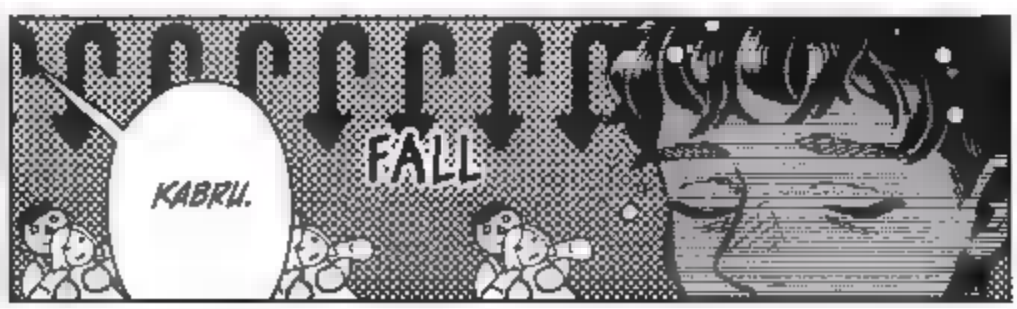

FLIP BODIES VERTICALLY, THEN TELEPORT TO THE SAME SPOT.


FALLING.

TELEPORT...
KABRU!
LOOK AT THIS!


FALL

TELEPORT

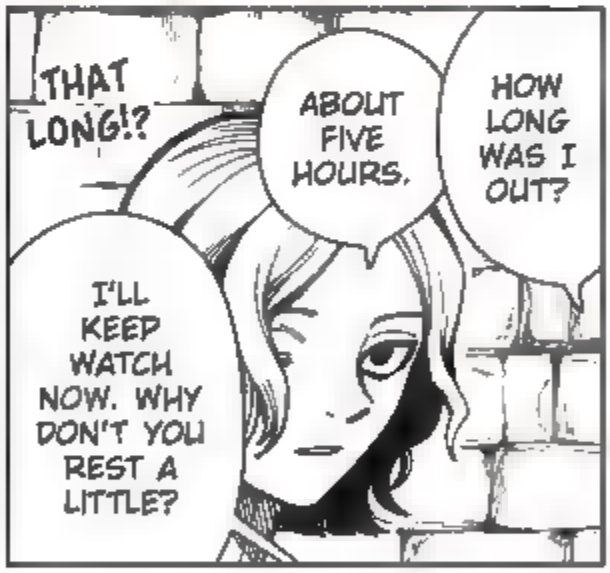

KABRU.
FALL

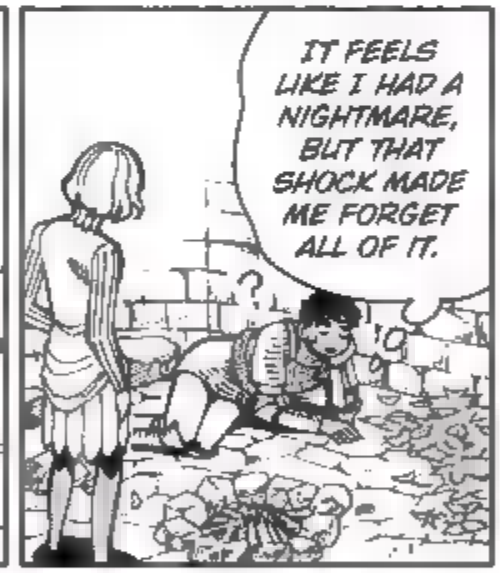
WE DEFEATED THE LORD OF THE DUNGEON, AND NOW IT'S ALL OURS!
HUH!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
GABA (BOLT)
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!!
OH... I CHOSE RIGHT...
NOW WE'LL FIND OUT ABOUT THE DUNGEON MYSTERIES THE LONG-LIVED RACES HAVE BEEN HIDING!
JIIN (TEARY)
SO, I WAS THINKING...
...I'M GOING TO BUILD A MONSTER RANCH AND FARM FIELDS HERE AND TURN IT INTO A KINGDOM OF MONSTERS!
HUH?
PEOPLE DON'T INTEREST ME MUCH ANYWAY.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DUNGEON'S MYSTERIES.
I'M CHOOSING THE PATH THAT WILL LET ME EAT MONSTERS FOREVER!
E...
FURA (REEL)
E...!
ENEMY OF MANKIND!!
HA HA HA HA WA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

WAKE UP.
??
??
HUH?
WHA—?
IT'S JUST A DREAM.
?

BACHI! (SMACK)

YOU HAD A BAD DREAM, DIDN'T YOU?
THEY'RE NIGHT-MARES.
??
?
HUH?
JYARI (CLINK)
THEY'RE STILL SMALL, SO IT WASN'T SERIOUS.

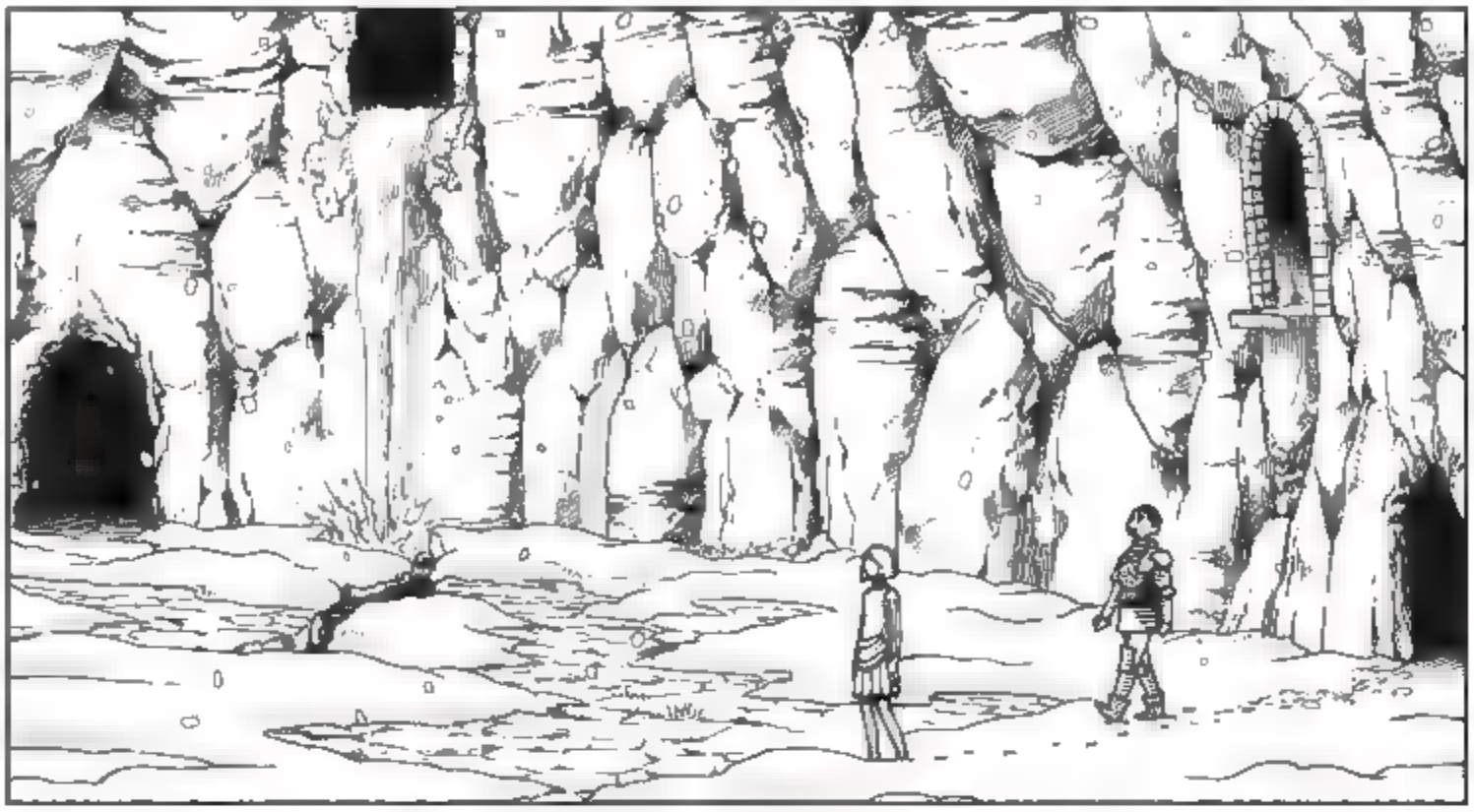

THAT LONG!?
ABOUT FIVE HOURS.
HOW LONG WAS I OUT?
I'LL KEEP WATCH NOW. WHY DON'T YOU REST A LITTLE?


IT FEELS LIKE I HAD A NIGHTMARE, BUT THAT SHOCK MADE ME FORGET ALL OF IT.
?

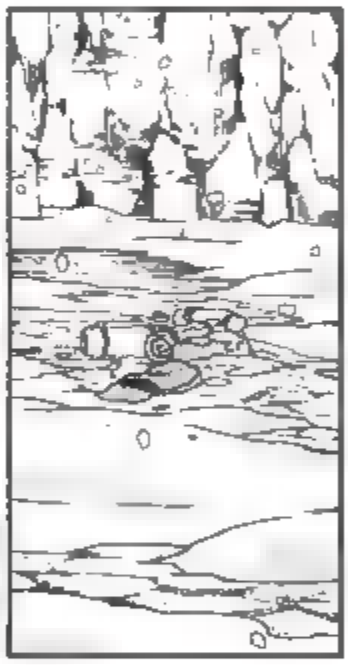
AH!
OH. I GUESS I FELL ASLEEP...

OW...
WE NEED TO FIND WATER.
SHALL WE EXPLORE, THEN?
SURE.

I'M NOT SLEEPY.
HE'S TOUGH...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S AN ELF.



NO FOOD, THOUGH...
THERE ARE PACKS IN THE SNOW...
SLEEPING BAGS TOO.
I WONDER IF THEY BELONG TO ADVENTURERS THAT GOT WIPED OUT HERE.



WHAT A VAST PLACE.
...HM?

I WON'T HOLD BACK, THEN.
SO THIS IS WHERE HIS LITTLE SISTER GOT EATEN.
CAPTAIN, LET'S BORROW THIS.

LAIOS
FALIN
NAMARI
MAR-CILLE
CHIL-CHUCK
TOSHIRO

WHO IN THE WORLD COULD...
A PARTY THAT MADE IT DOWN THIS FAR?
HM? THERE ARE NAMES WRITTEN HERE.

DOU (WHUMP)
どゥ

がくん
GAKUN (BUCKLE)

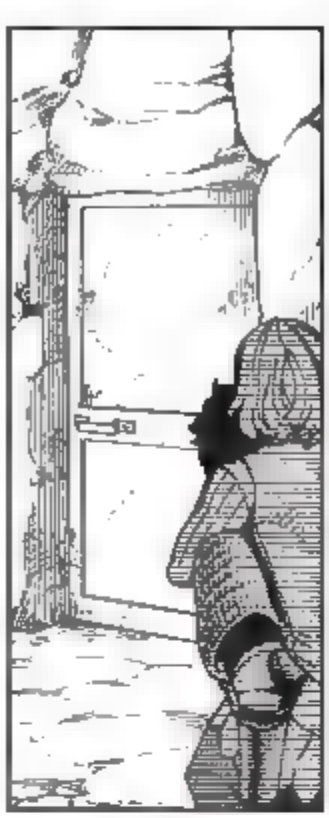
WHEEZE...
WHEEZE...

WHY!?
YOU DON'T KNOW ...?
I DON'T KNOW.

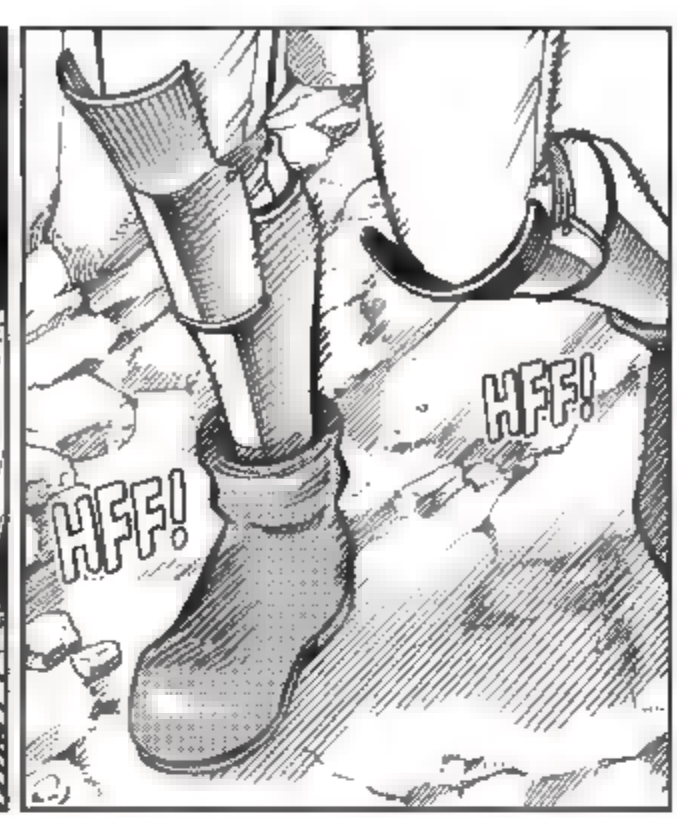
WHA... WHAT HAP-PENED !?
MY BODY JUST STOPPED WORKING.

TO (TMP)
TO

WE HAVE TO HIDE SOME-WHERE FAST, OR ELSE...
SORRY! I'M GOING TO CARRY YOU.



!
SAAA
WSSSHD
I HEAR WATER.

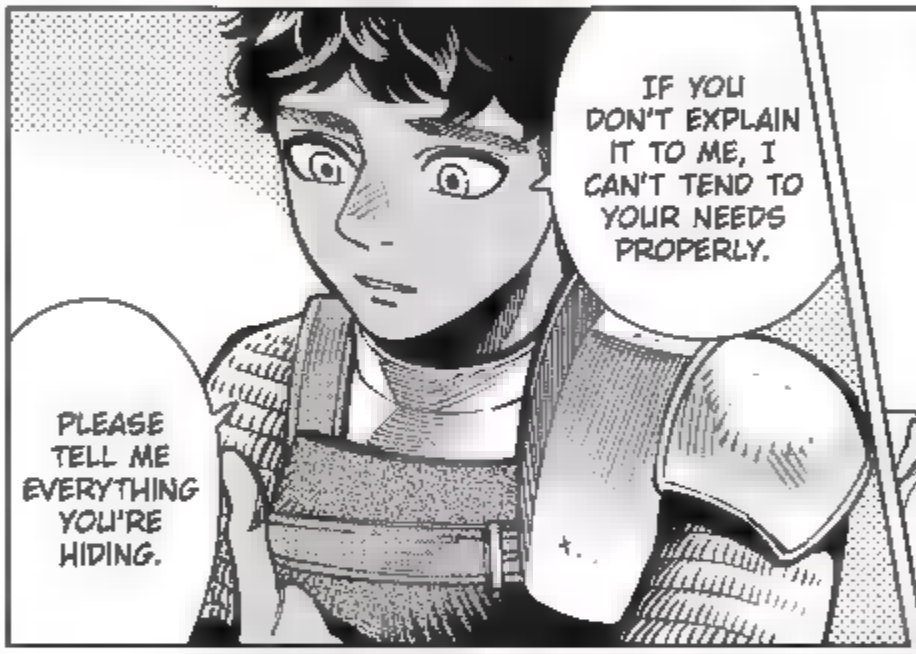

HFF!
HFF!

ガチャン
GACHAN (CLANK)
A SLEEPING BAG, A WATER SOURCE, AND EVEN A PLACE TO HIDE...
THIS IS TOO CONVENIENT. IT'S UNSETTLING.
BASA (RUSTLE)
THERE. EASY DOES IT.
YOU WISHED, SO THE DUNGEON PROVIDED.
IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.
DON'T WISH OFTEN.
YOU WISHED FOR THOSE THINGS...
HUH?

AND THEY SAID TO "TAKE CARE" OF HIM... THERE'S SOME OTHER ISSUE HERE.
CAPTAIN MITHRUN.

IT'S ODD THAT A CASTER WOULDN'T KNOW HIS MAGIC WAS RUNNING LOW, THOUGH.

IT JUST LOOKS LIKE HE DRAINED HIS MAGIC.


IF YOU DON'T EXPLAIN IT TO ME, I CAN'T TEND TO YOUR NEEDS PROPERLY.
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU'RE HIDING.

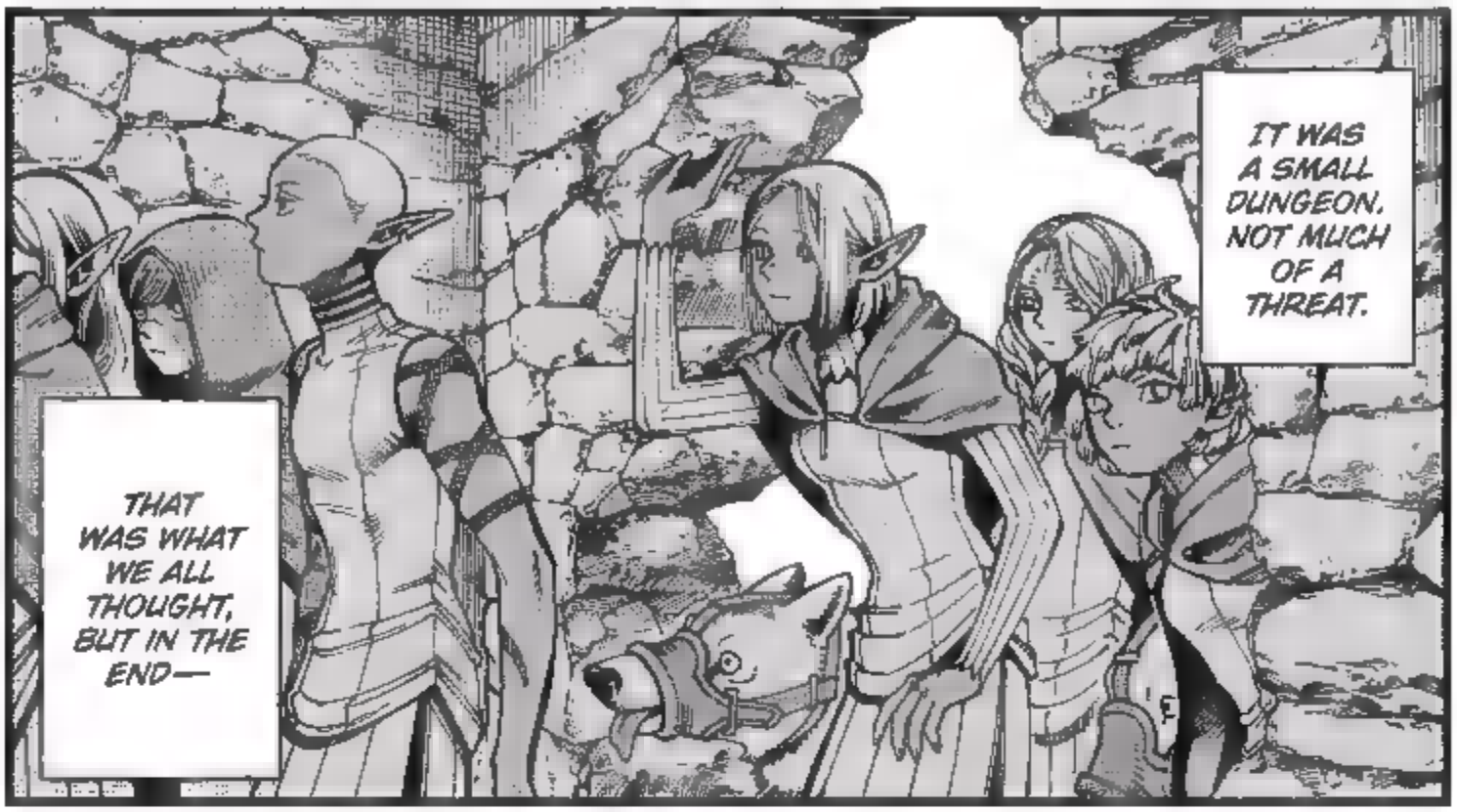
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY, ISN'T THERE.

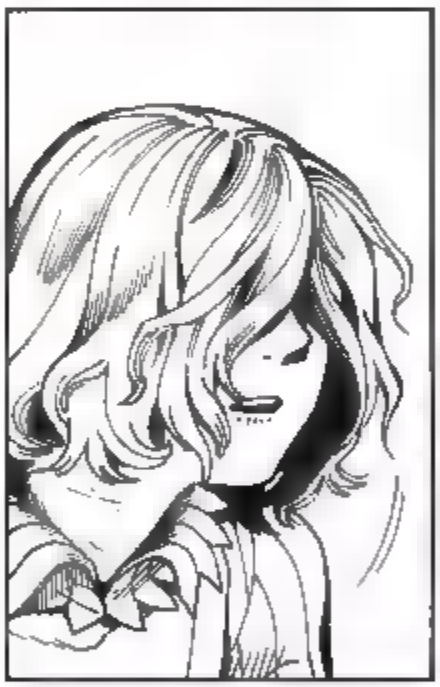
NEVER MIND, JUST TELL ME.

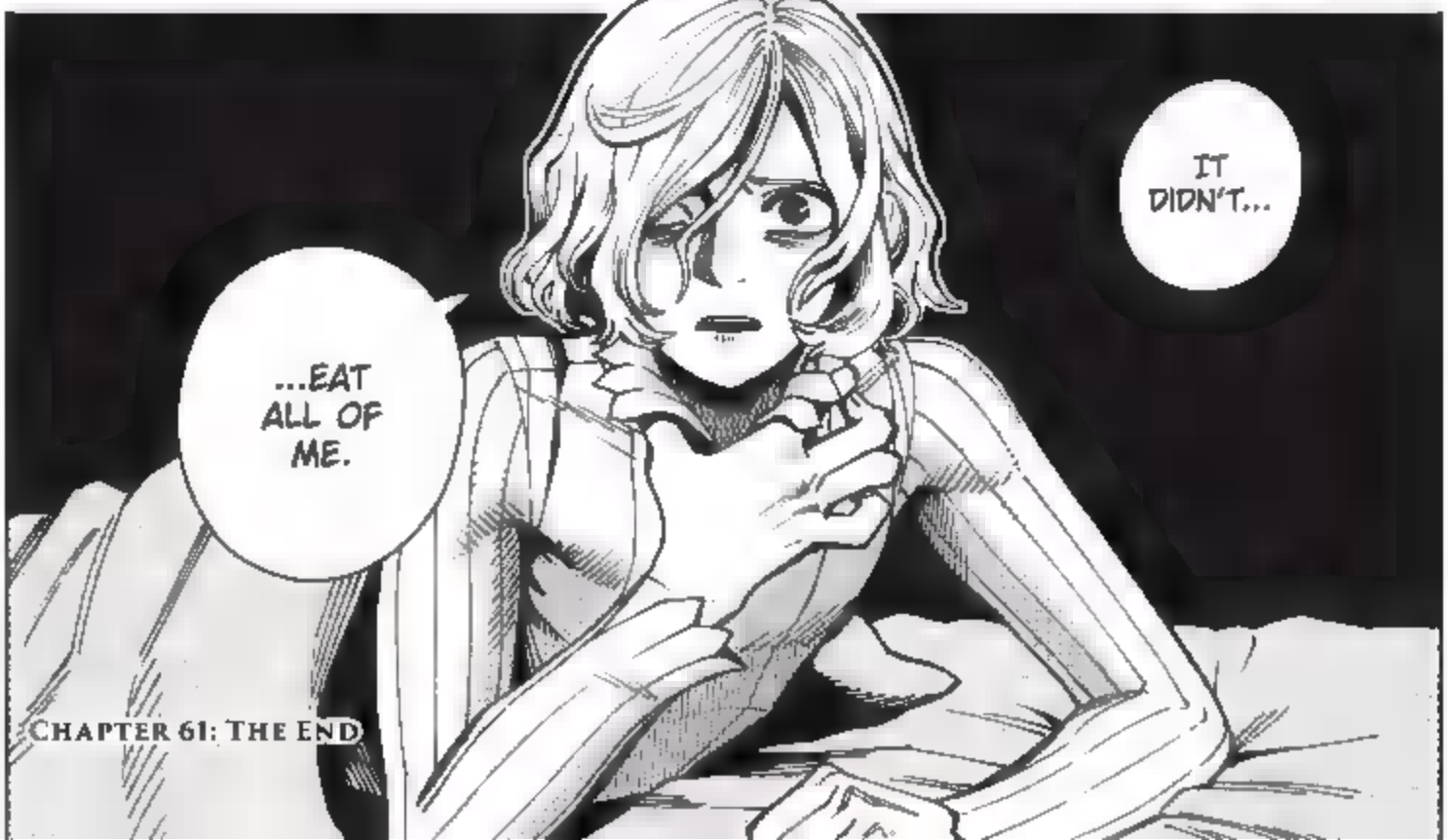
...I WAS...

...YOU'RE AN INQUISITIVE ONE.
IN THE DUNGEON, THAT COULD PROVE FATAL.

I WAS ONCE THE LORD OF A DUNGEON.







CHAPTER 61: THE END

ABOUT HIS PAST IN THE DUNGEON.

ABOUT ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM—

IT DIDN'T... EAT ALL OF ME.

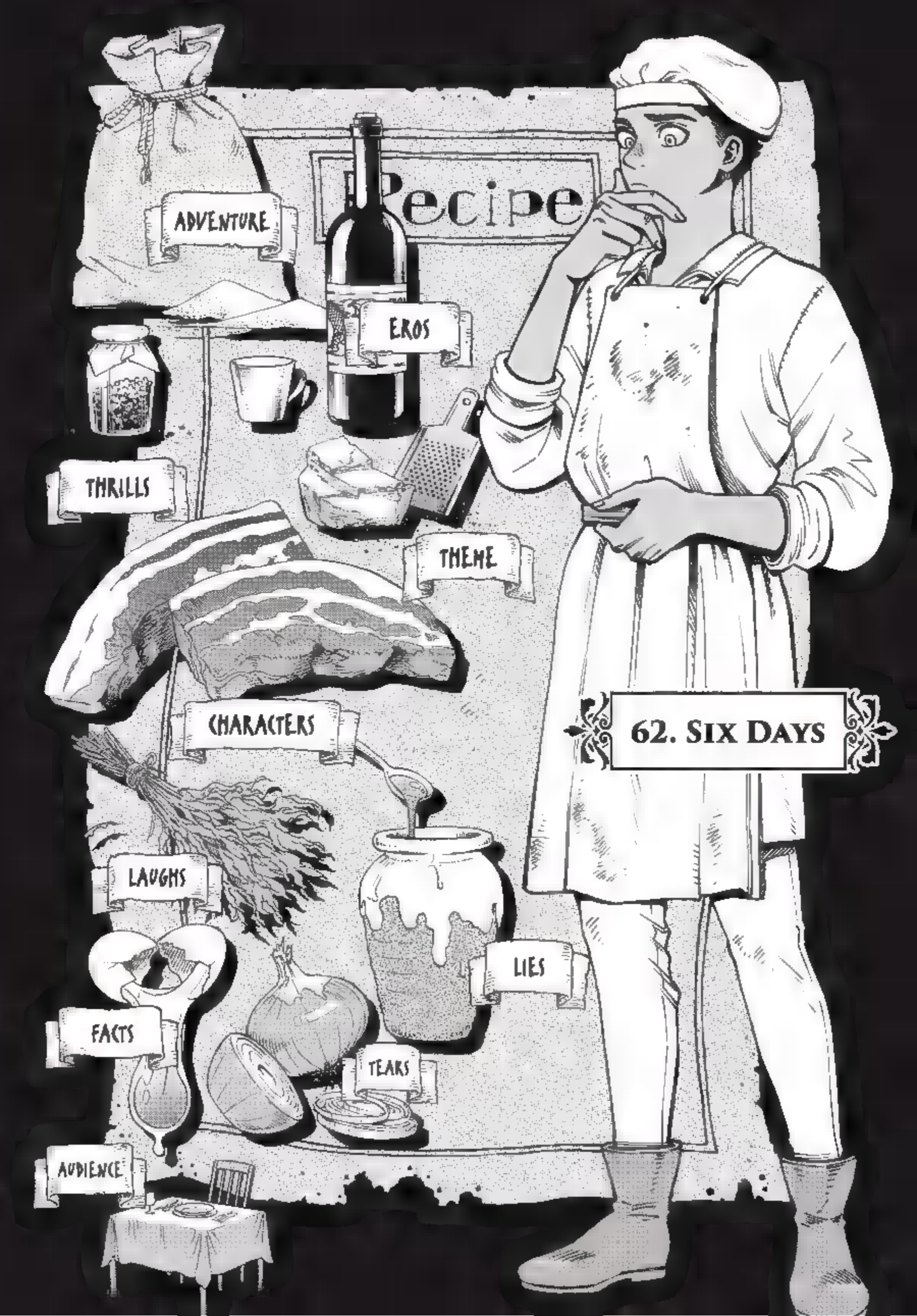
THEN HE BEGAN TO TELL ME.

EVERY-THING...

CHAPTER 62

HIS STORY WAS TERRIBLY COMPLICATED.

HE DID TELL ME, BUT THERE WAS ONE PROBLEM.


Recipe
ADVENTURE
EROS
THRILLS
THEME
CHARACTERS
LAUGHS
LIES
FACTS
TEARS
AUDIENCE

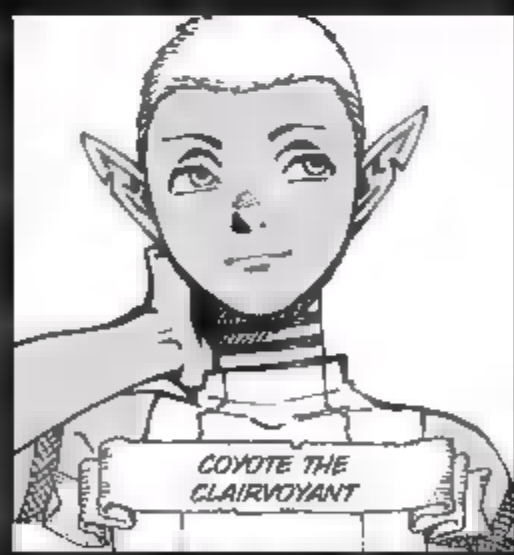
62. Six Days

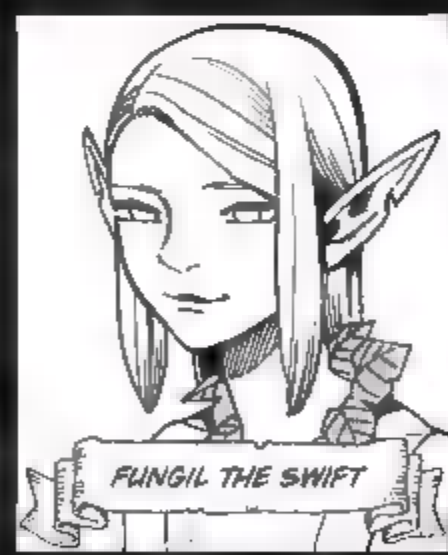
LONG AGO...

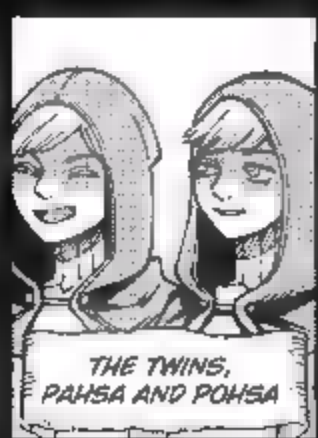
...A CANARY UNIT WAS DISPATCHED TO A CERTAIN DUNGEON.

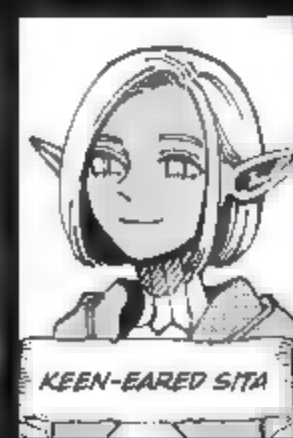
AMONG THEM WAS OUR CAPTAIN—

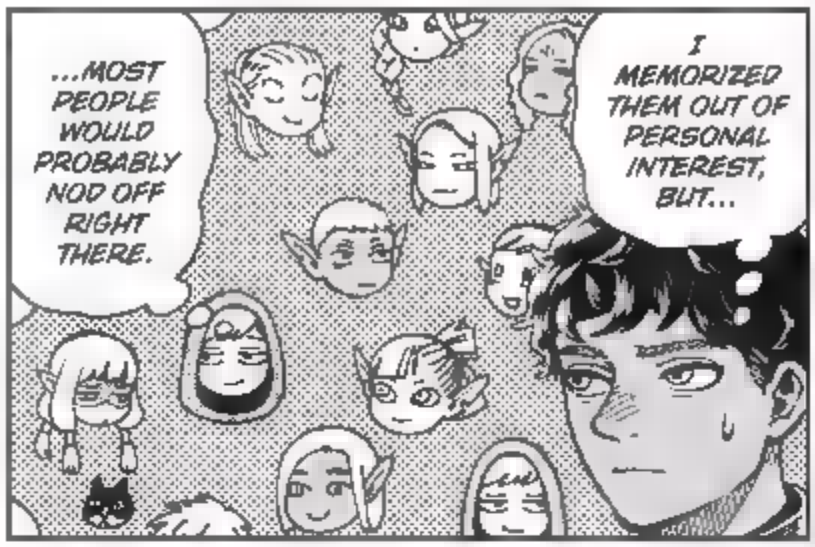
NO, MITHRUN, WHO WAS JUST A MEMBER THEN. THE REST WERE...

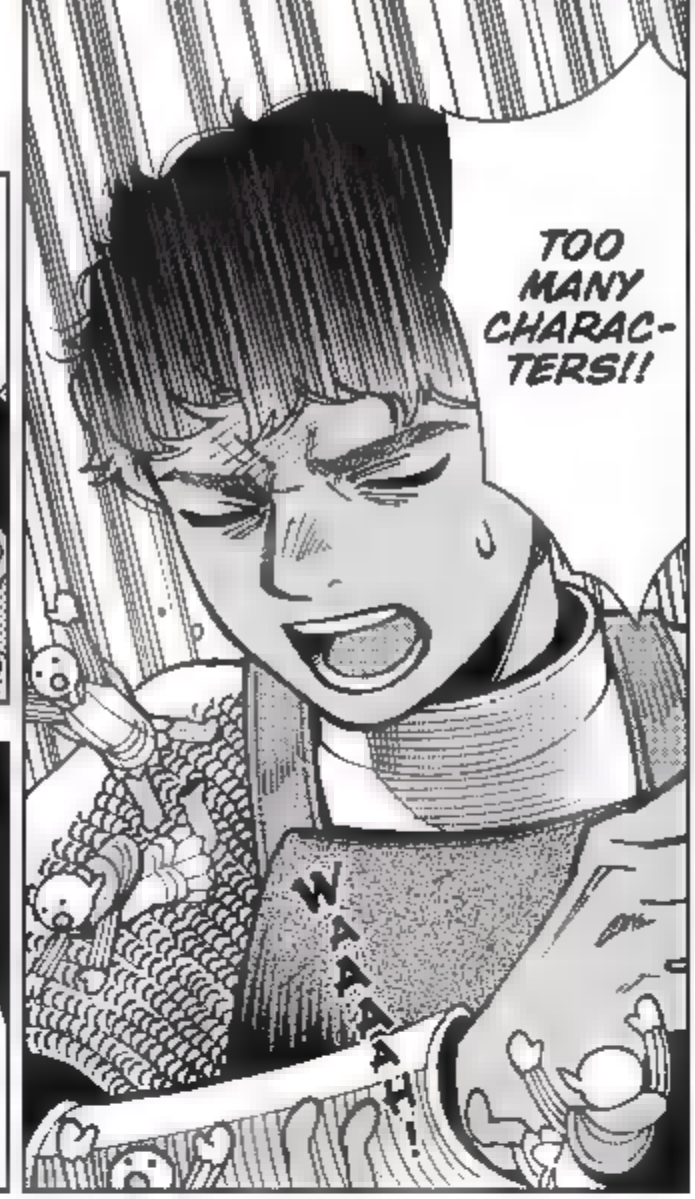


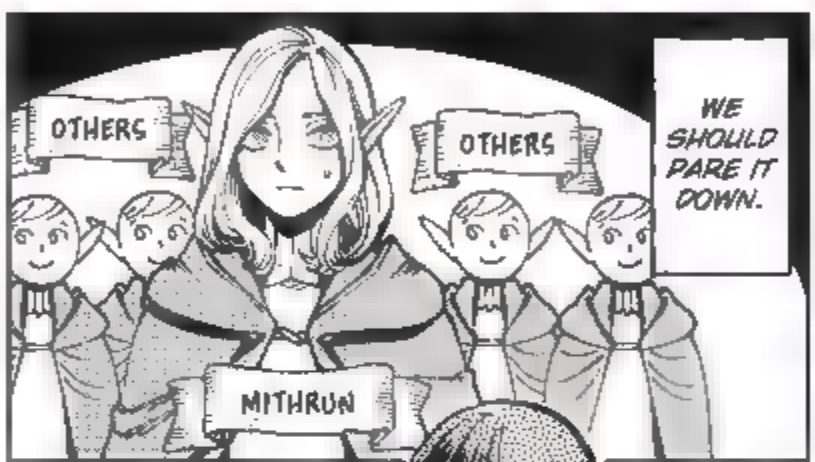


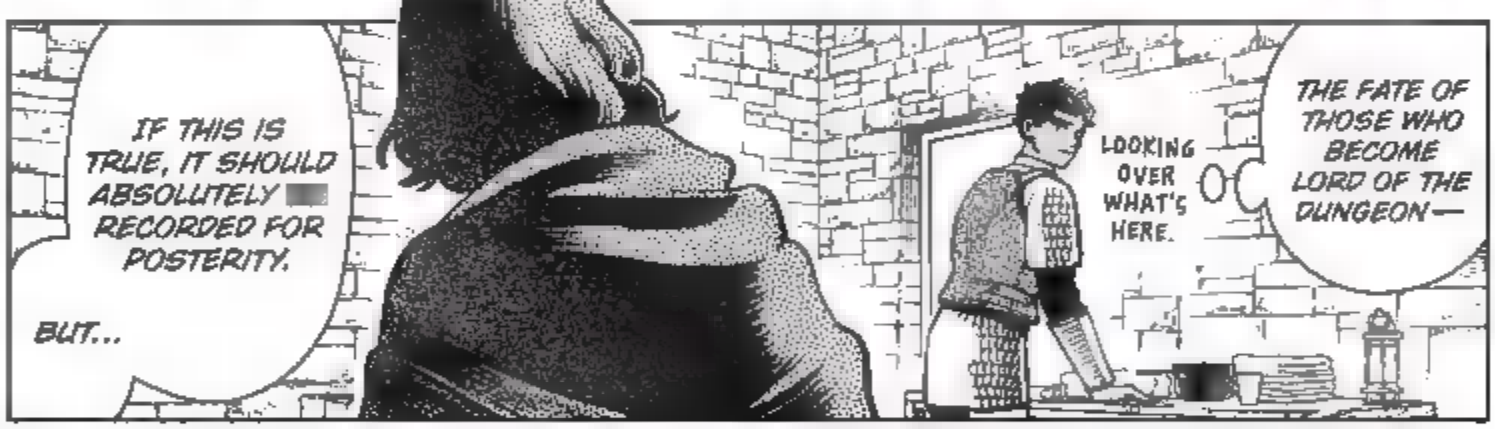





...MOST PEOPLE WOULD PROBABLY NOD OFF RIGHT THERE.
I MEMORIZED THEM OUT OF PERSONAL INTEREST, BUT...


TOO MANY CHARAC-TERS!!
WAAAAH!


OTHERS
OTHERS
MITHRUN
WE SHOULD PARE IT DOWN.


IF THIS IS TRUE, IT SHOULD ABSOLUTELY RECORDED FOR POSTERITY.
BUT...
LOOKING OVER WHAT'S HERE.
THE FATE OF THOSE WHO BECOME LORD OF THE DUNGEON—

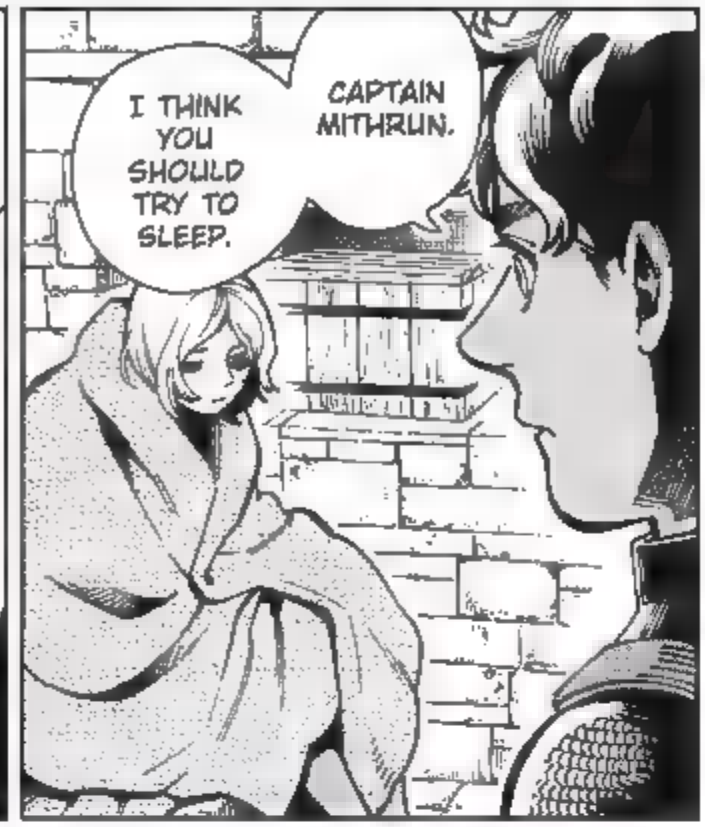
BUT BEFORE THAT...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
チラ

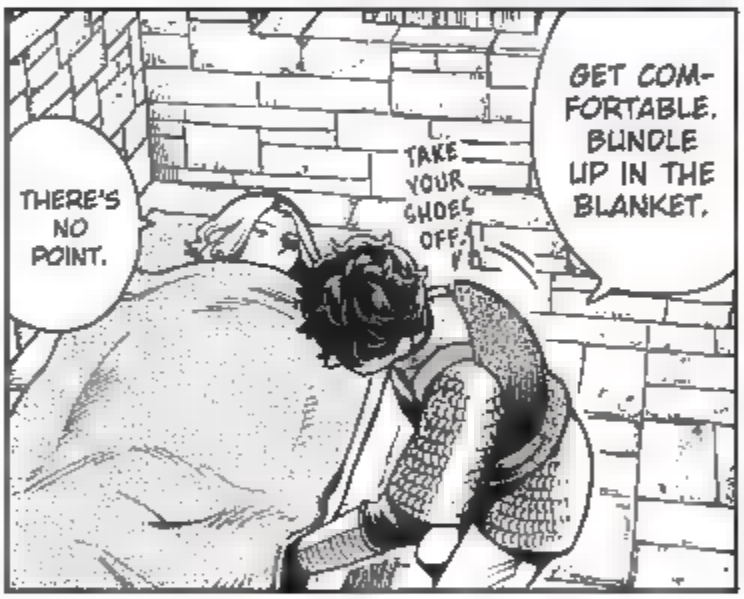
I SHOULD GET IT STRAIGHT IN MY MIND...
HELP WON'T ARRIVE FOR A WEEK. THERE'S TIME TO SPARE.

...THE STORY IS A TANGLED ONE, AND I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT.

I'LL TEACH YOU A SLEEP SPELL, SO...
NO, NO.

I TOLD YOU.
WITHOUT POTIONS OR SPELLS, I CAN'T.


CAPTAIN MITHRUN.
I THINK YOU SHOULD TRY TO SLEEP.

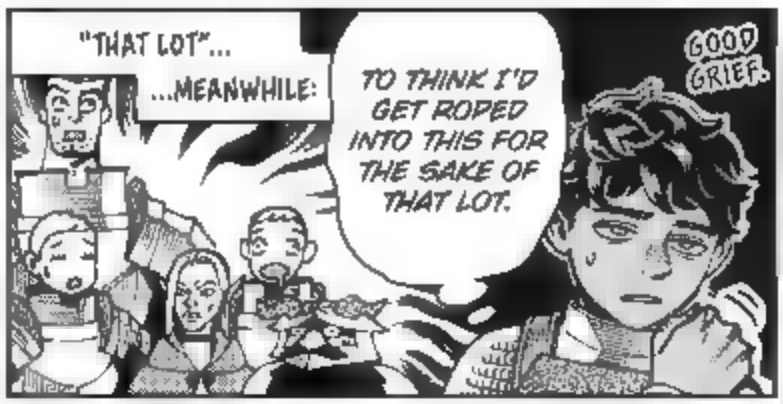

GET COMFORTABLE. BUNDLE UP IN THE BLANKET.
TAKE YOUR SHOES OFF.
THERE'S NO POINT.

SIMPLY CLOSING YOUR EYES AND LYING DOWN DOESN'T MAKE YOU SLEEPY?
NO.

THIS COULD NEVER MAKE ME SLEE—

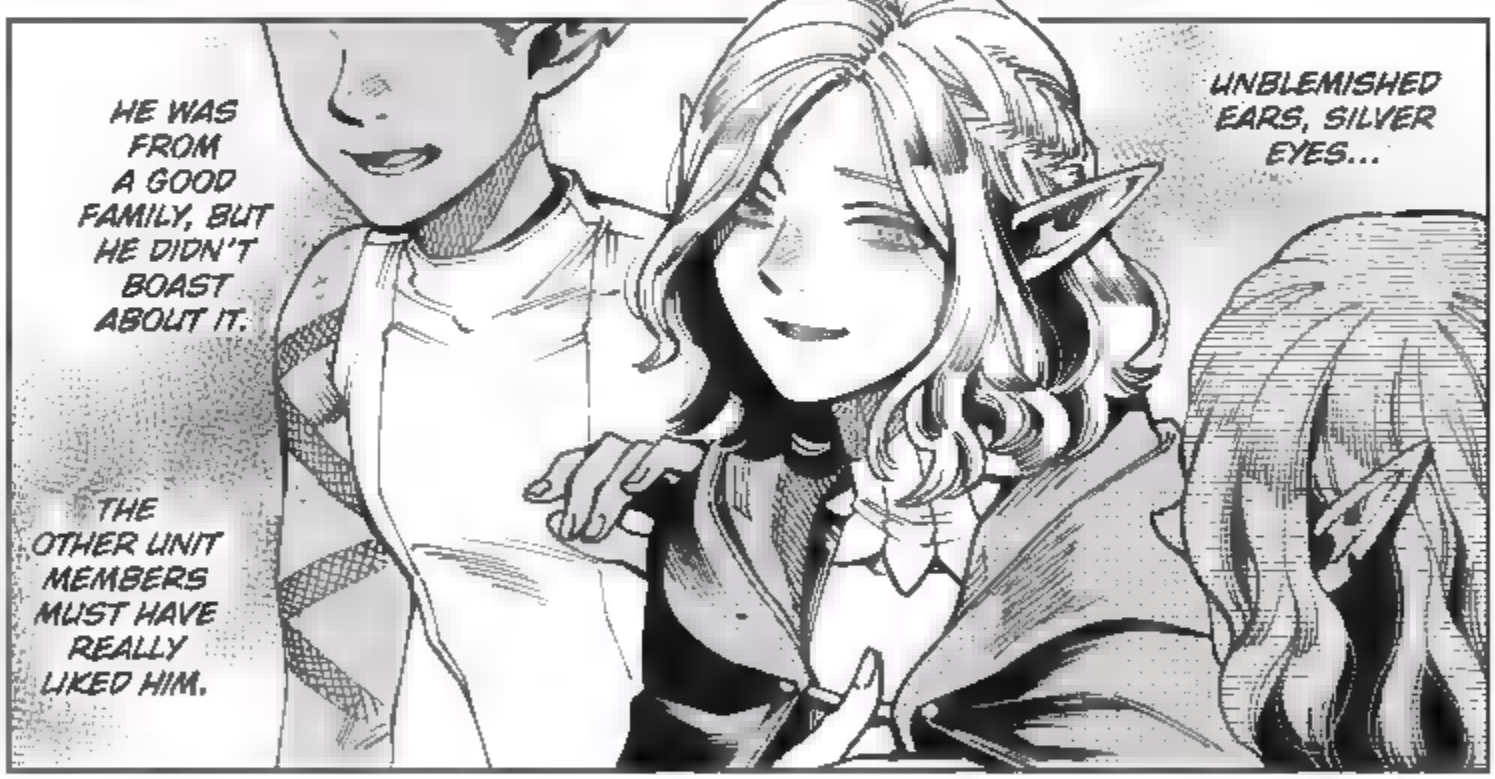
GUI (SQUEEZE)
GUI

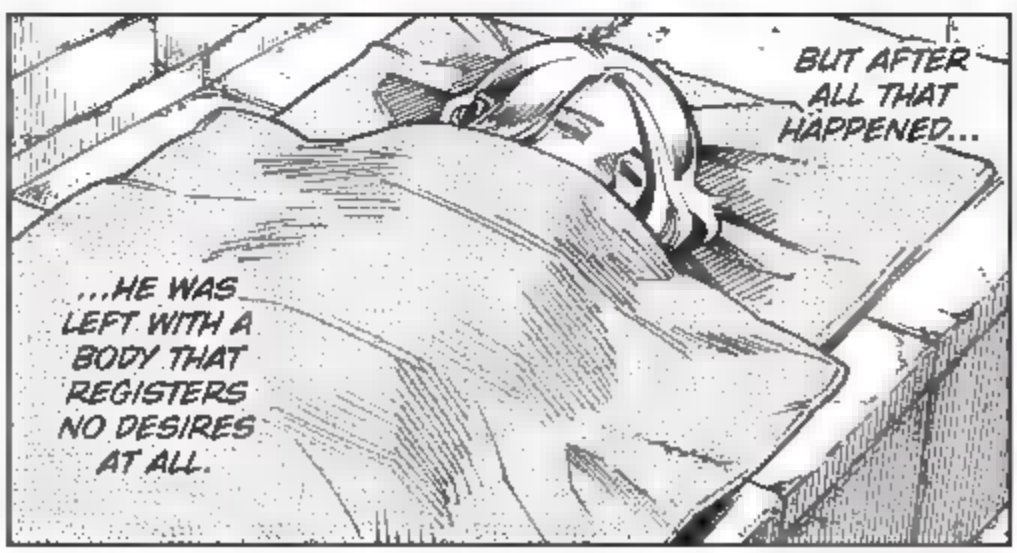
WHOA, YOUR FEET ARE COLD.
YOUR MUSCLES ARE STIFF TOO.
I'LL TRY TO LOOSEN THEM A BIT.
IT'LL IMPROVE YOUR CIRCULATION TOO.


"THAT LOT"...
...MEANWHILE:
TO THINK I'D GET ROPED INTO THIS FOR THE SAKE OF THAT LOT.
GOOD GRIEF.

SNNN...

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE FROM THE WAY HE LOOKS NOW, BUT...


HE WAS FROM A GOOD FAMILY, BUT HE DIDN'T BOAST ABOUT IT.
THE OTHER UNIT MEMBERS MUST HAVE REALLY LIKED HIM.
UNBLEMISHED EARS, SILVER EYES...


BUT AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED...
...HE WAS LEFT WITH A BODY THAT REGISTERS NO DESIRES AT ALL.

BACK THEN, HE WAS A PERFECT YOUTH.

HM?
IF HE DOESN'T FEEL THE NEED TO EAT OR SLEEP, THEN...

HE NEEDS PEOPLE TO CARE FOR HIM. HE CAN'T SURVIVE ON HIS OWN.
THE PROBLEM IS, HE DOES NEED THINGS. HE JUST DOESN'T NOTICE.

I DON'T REALLY NEED TO GO RIGHT NOW, SO IT'S FINE...
NOOOO, LET'S MAKE A TRIP ANYWAY!!

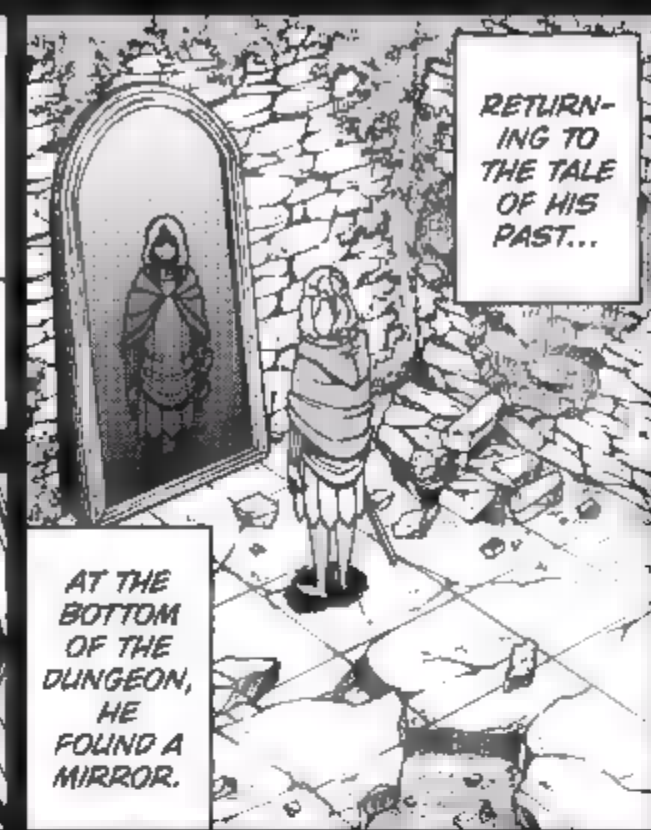
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM!!?

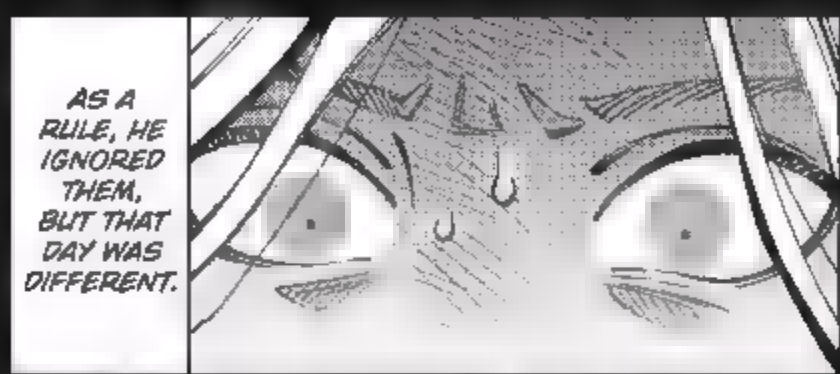
GAKU
GAKU
GAKU (SHAKE)
がくがくがく
EXCUSE ME!!
CAPTAIN, PLEASE WAKE UP!!

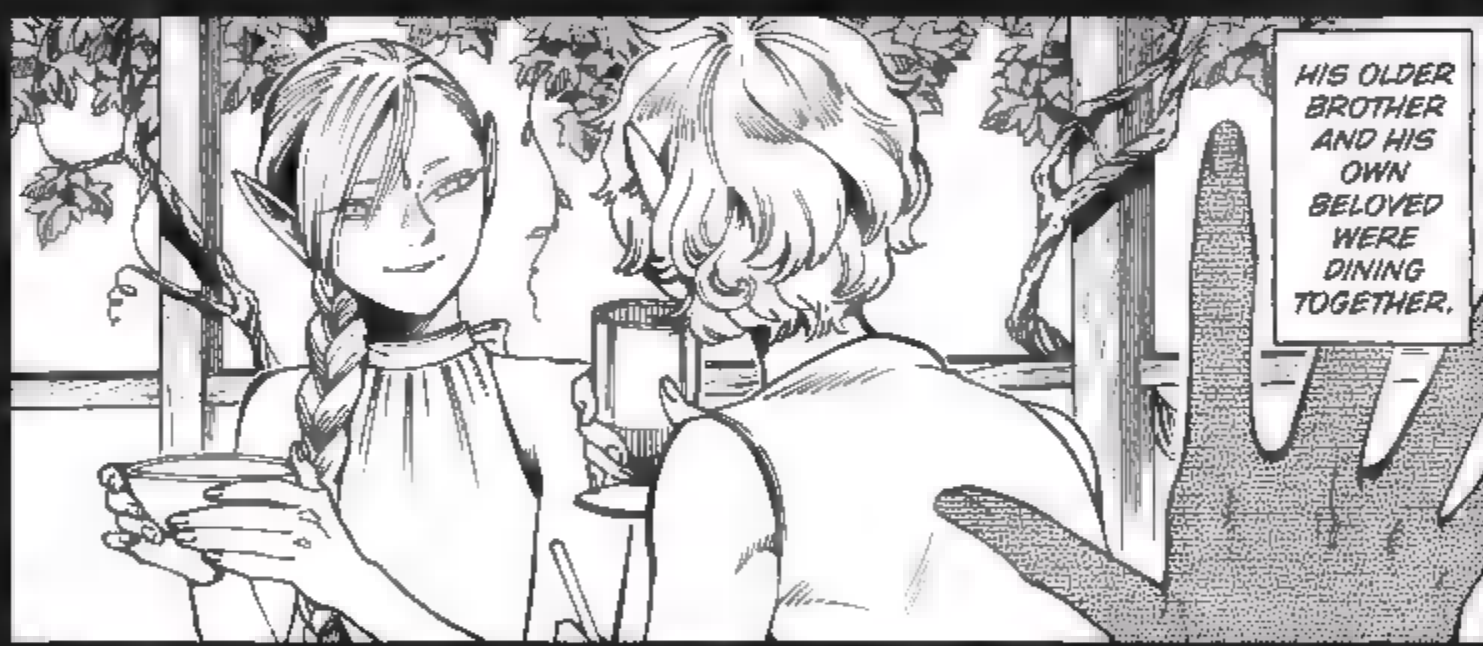
FOUR DAYS LEFT UNTIL RESCUE
IT'S NURSING!
THIS ISN'T "SEEING TO HIS NEEDS."

Day Three After the Fall

IT WAS A MAGIC MIRROR THAT SHOWED PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANTED AND STOLE THEIR HEARTS.


RETURNING TO THE TALE OF HIS PAST...
AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DUNGEON, HE FOUND A MIRROR.

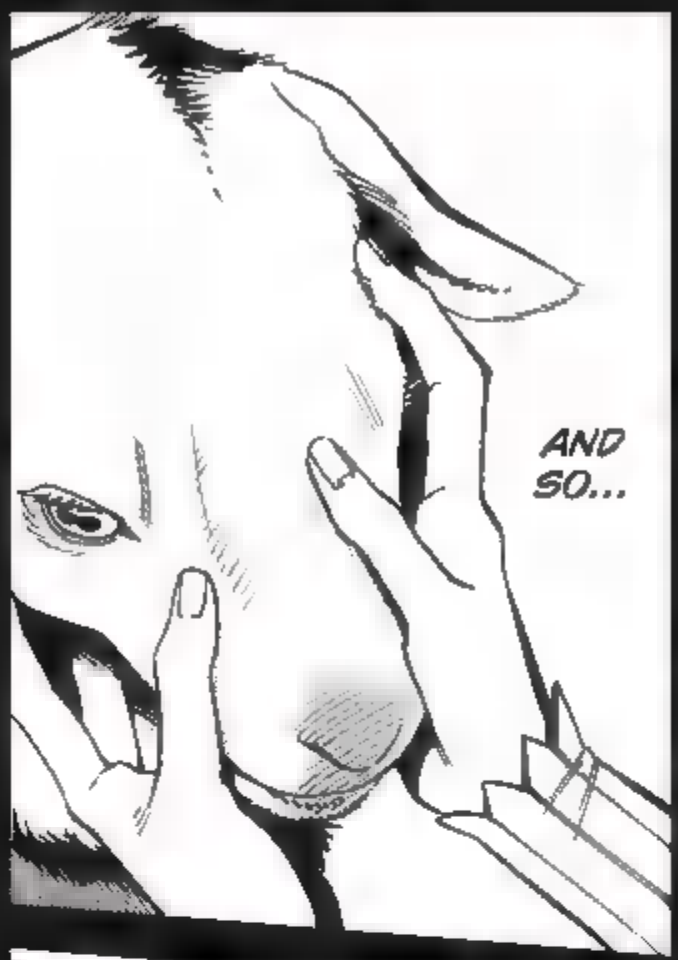

AS A RULE, HE IGNORED THEM, BUT THAT DAY WAS DIFFERENT.


HIS OLDER BROTHER AND HIS OWN BELOVED WERE DINING TOGETHER.

THAT'S PRETTY GOOD PLOTTING.
HA HA HA.
EVERYBODY LOVES A TRAGIC LOVE STORY.

IT WAS A LOVE HE'D LEFT BEHIND WHEN HE'D JOINED THE CANARIES IN HIS BROTHER'S PLACE.
THE SIGHT UPSET HIM TERRIBLY.

IN HIS FURY, HE SMASHED THE MIRROR, AND THEN...
"IF YOU HADN'T ENLISTED, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN YOURS.
"IT'S NOT TOO LATE. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THAT FUTURE?"
THE GOAT SPOKE TO HIM.
FROM THE WRECK OF THE MIRROR, A GOAT APPEARED.

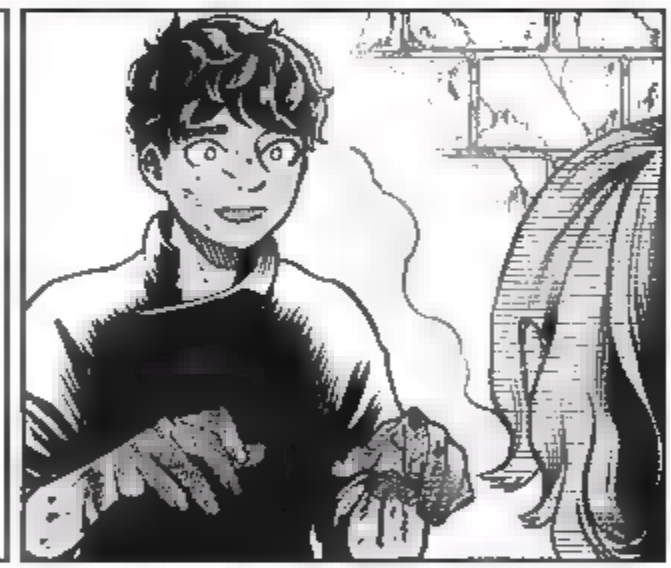


...TO HIS MISFORTUNE, HE **WISHED** FOR A LIFE IN WHICH HE HADN'T JOINED THE CANARIES.

MUKURI (SHUF)
OH.
GOOD MORNING.

PACHI (BLINK)

...IT WASN'T BUILT QUITE LIKE A REGULAR SHEEP.
WELL, ERM...
I TRIED TO BUTCHER THE SHEEP...
...GOING ON WHAT I COULD REMEMBER FROM MY CHILDHOOD, BUT...

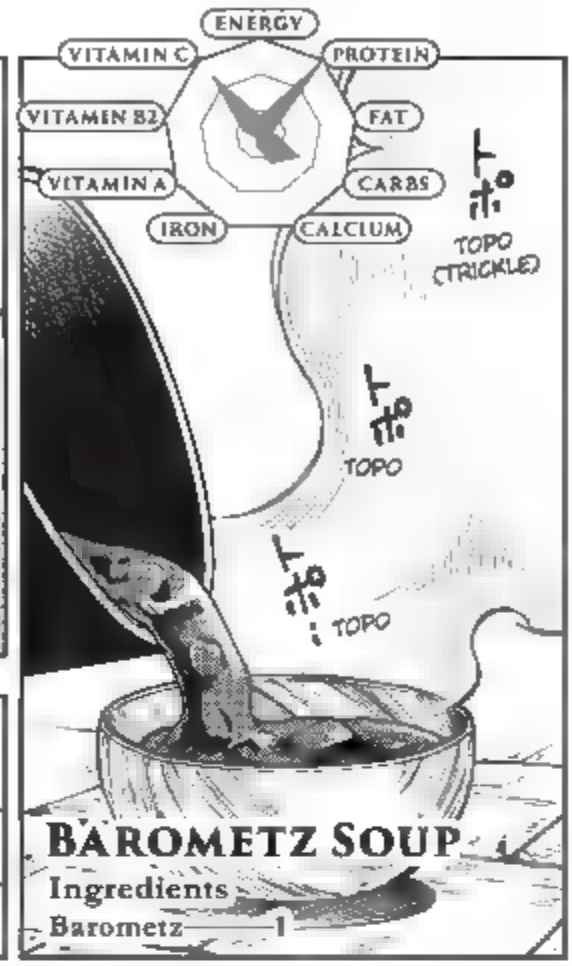


MUTTON STEW, HM?
MY MOTHER USED TO MAKE IT FOR ME.
I DIDN'T HAVE MOST OF THE INGREDIENTS, BUT...

IT WAS HARD TO TELL WHICH BITS TO USE.

WHERE DOES THIS END?
I COULDN'T REMOVE ITS ORGANS CLEANLY...
HUH!?
IT SPLIT...
...AND THE BONES WERE ODDLY SOFT.

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HAD IT, SO I CAN'T WAIT.
I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

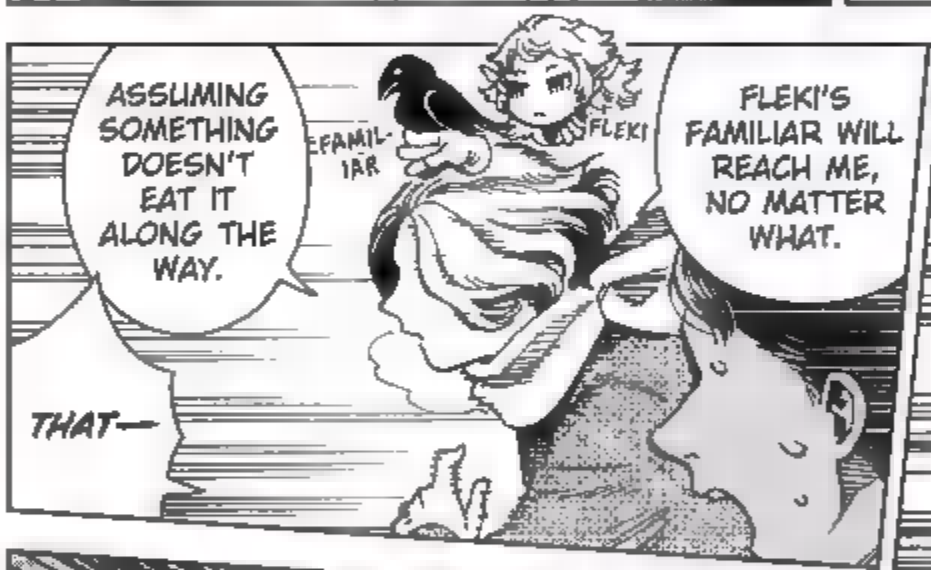

ENERGY
PROTEIN
FAT
CARBS
CALCIUM
IRON
VITAMIN A
VITAMIN B2
VITAMIN C
トポ
TOPO (TRICKLE)
トポ
TOPO
トポ
TOPO
BAROMETZ SOUP
Ingredients
Barometz 1

I'LL HAVE SOME.

PAKURI (MUNCH)
ぱくり

THREE DAYS LEFT UNTIL RESCUE
IT TASTES LIKE CRAB.
IT DOES, DOESN'T IT.

Day Four After the Fall



THIS WAY.
GU (STOMP)

BUSHU
(FSSSH)
BOFUN
(BOOMF)
!!!
URK!
GORO
GORO
GORO
GORO
(ROLL)

GO
(WHUD)
PA
(POOF)

CAPTAIN MITHRUN!

ムクリ

MUKURI (RISE)

ドシャ

DOSHA (FWUMP)

IT MAY COME BACK.

NO HELP FOR THAT. LET'S MOVE ON.

"MOVE ON"...?

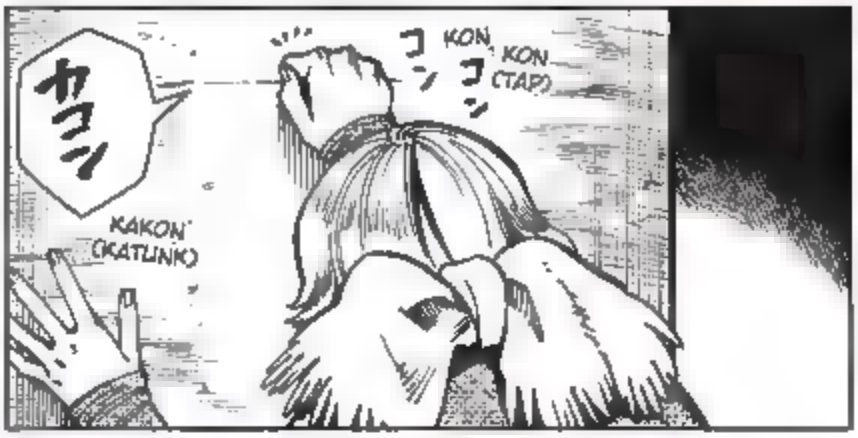
I COMPLETELY LOST TRACK OF DIRECTION WHILE WE WERE RUNNING.

THERE IS NO DIRECTION IN PLACES LIKE THIS.

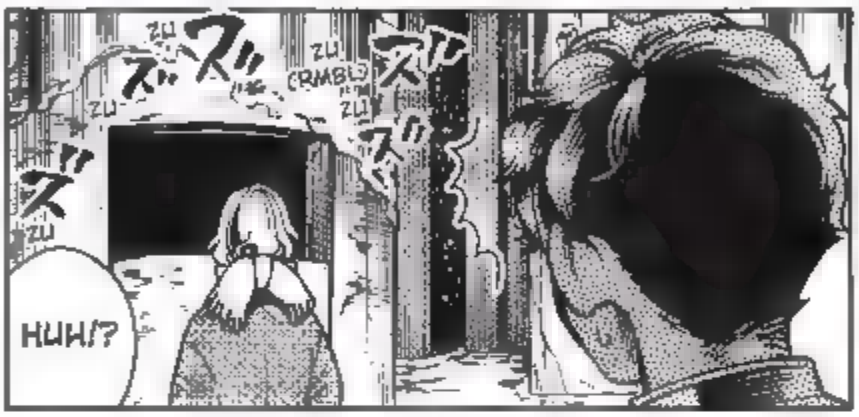
WHAT WAS THAT SMOKE?

WHERE DID YOU SEND THE GRIFFIN?

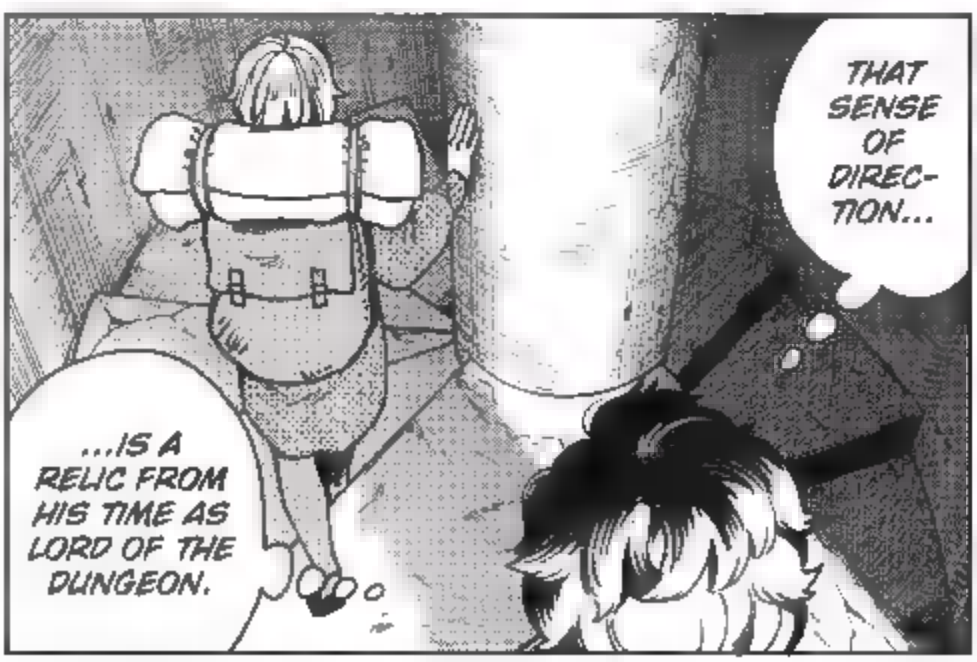
I MEANT TO SEND IT INTO THE WALL, BUT I MISSED.


カコン
KAKON (KATLINK)
コン
KON
コン
KON (TAP)

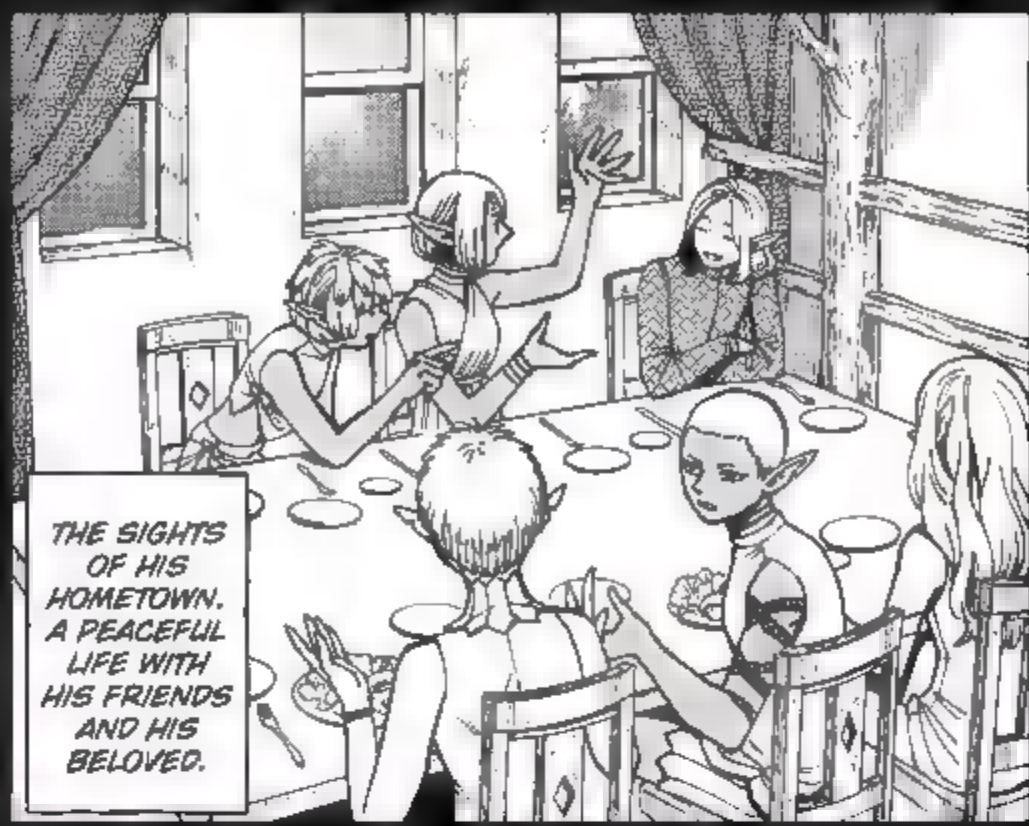
YOTA
ヨタ
YOTA (SWAY)
ヨタ


ZU
ズ
ZU
ズッ
ZU (RMBL)
ZU
ズア
ズ
ZU
HUH!?

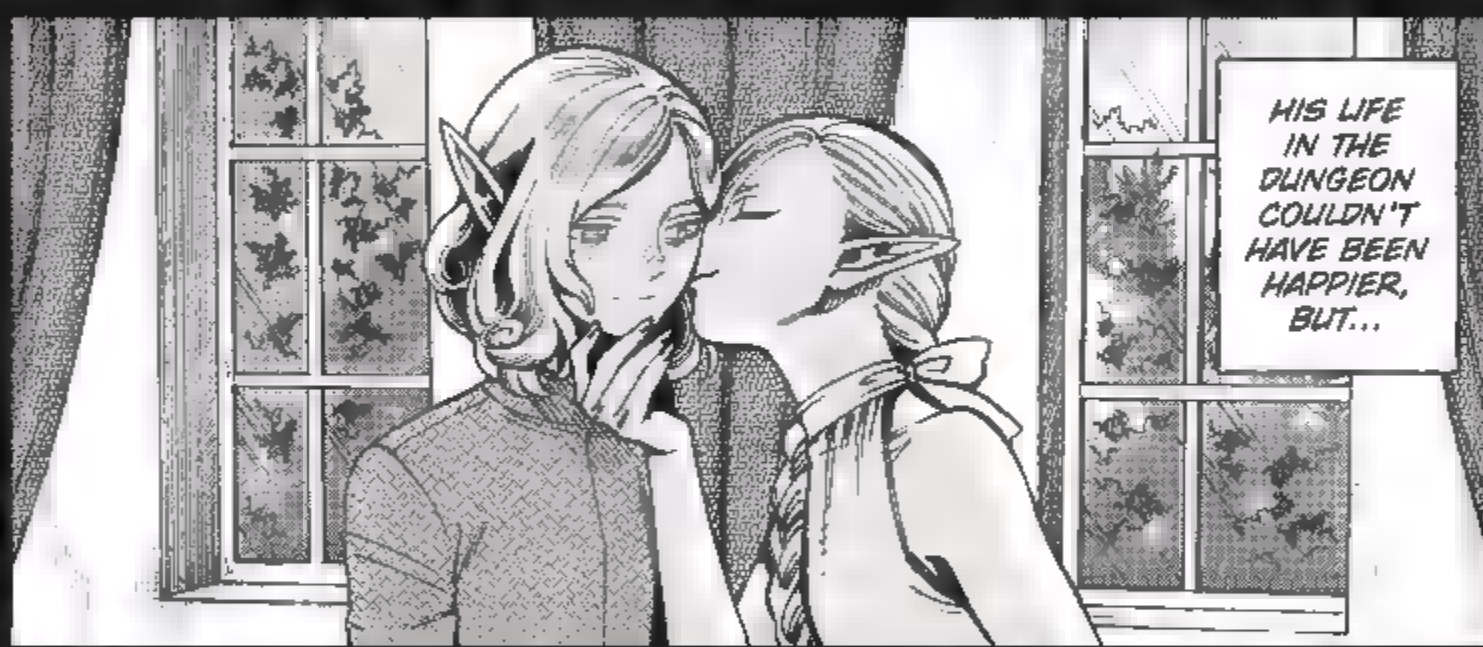
IF I BUILT A PLACE LIKE THIS, I'D MAKE SURE TO ADD A WAY OUT.
NO, BUT...
YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PASSAGE?


THAT SENSE OF DIREC-TION...
...IS A RELIC FROM HIS TIME AS LORD OF THE DUNGEON.

I SEE...


THE SIGHTS OF HIS HOMETOWN. A PEACEFUL LIFE WITH HIS FRIENDS AND HIS BELOVED.

ONCE MITHRUN WAS THE DUNGEON'S LORD, THE GOAT GAVE HIM EVERY-THING.


HIS LIFE IN THE DUNGEON COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HAPPIER, BUT...

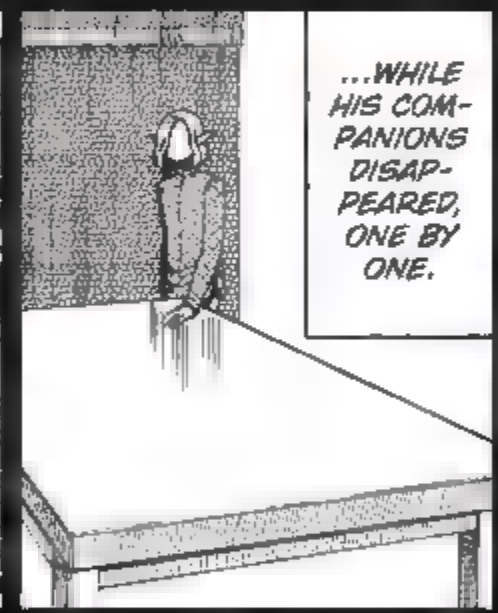
THE MORE HE TRIED TO ERADICATE PLUNDERERS ...

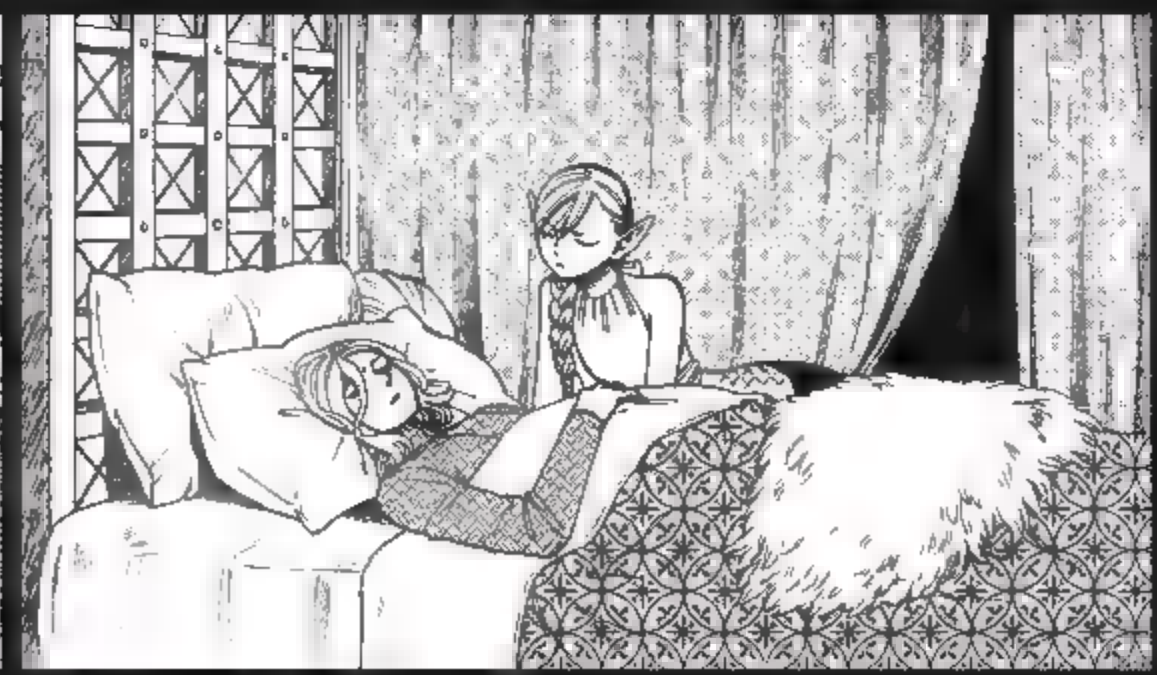
THIEVES!

...BEFORE LONG, BIT BY BIT, SHADOWS FELL OVER IT.

...THE MORE MONSTERS RAN RAMPANT IN THE DUNGEON...

...AND THE MORE COMPLI-CATED ITS STRUCTURE BECAME.





MLINZU (GRASP)
レンズ
GOAT...

GU (SLUP)
じっ…

DARA (DROOL)
だらー…

MOGU (MUNCH)
もぐ

JITA (FLAIL)
じたばた

STOP!

WHAT EXACTLY …

…ARE YOU EATING!?

BATA (KICK)
ばたー

AH…

GABU (CHOMP)
がぶ

GOKU (GULP)
ごく

むしゃ MUSHA (CRUMP)

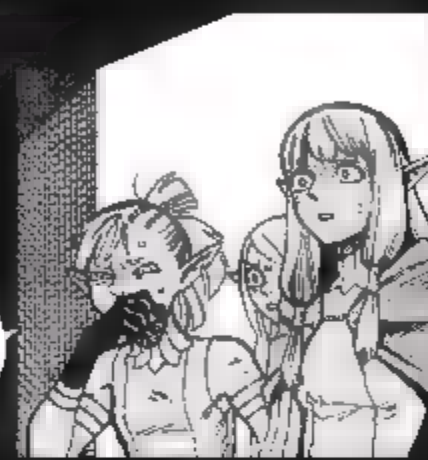
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU DO—

PAK (SMAK)
ぱく

STOP!!

NUCHA
(SQUELCH)
ぬ
ちゃ


UGH!

IT'S DEVOURED ALL HIS DESIRES.
IF HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO SURVIVE, HE WON'T LAST LONG.

WHAT DO WE DO?

THIS ONE'S MITHRUN.
HE'S STILL BREATH-ING.

?

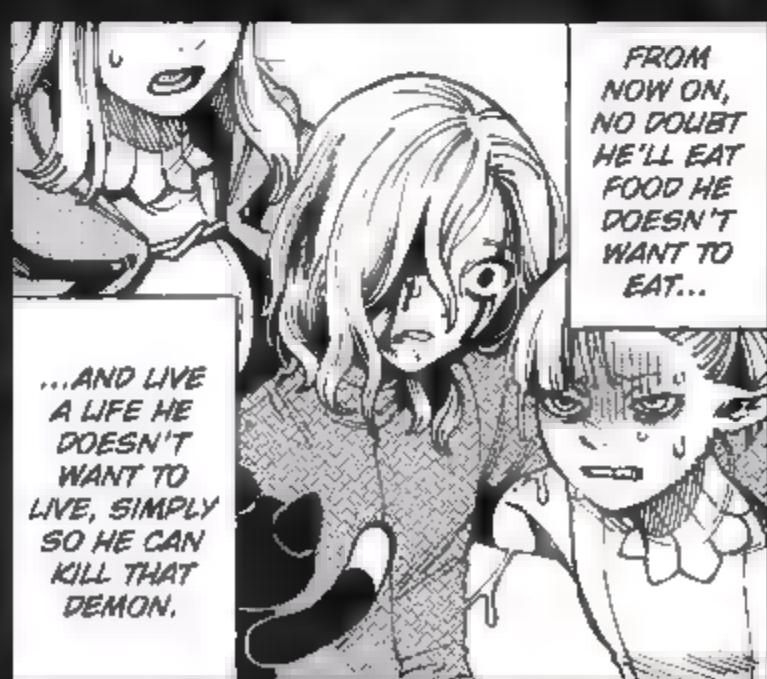
WE'LL PUT HIM OUT OF HIS—

IT HADN'T EATEN ENOUGH TO BUILD UP SUFFICIENT POWER, APPARENTLY.
THE DEMON, YOU MEAN?
IT VANISHED.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
It...
BUTSU
Kill...

WHERE IS THE GOAT...?

Kill it...
BUTSU
I'll kill...
...it...
BUTSU
BUTSU

I SEE.
SO IT DIDN'T EAT YOUR DESIRE FOR REVENGE.


FROM NOW ON, NO DOUBT HE'LL EAT FOOD HE DOESN'T WANT TO EAT...
...AND LIVE A LIFE HE DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE, SIMPLY SO HE CAN KILL THAT DEMON.

DON'T WORRY.

TEND TO HIS NEEDS.
HUH!?
YOU'RE SURE?

—HOW'S THAT?

THE DETAILS ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
I EDITED THOSE TO MAKE IT A BIT EASIER TO UNDERSTAND.
IT'S WAY TOO COMPLICATED.

I TRIED TO ORGANIZE YOUR STORY IN MY OWN WAY.
I GOT THE GIST OF IT, DIDN'T I?

THERE'S EGGSHELL IN IT.
JYORI (CRUNCH)
I DIDN'T MEAN THE FOOD.

HUH?

WHO ISN'T?

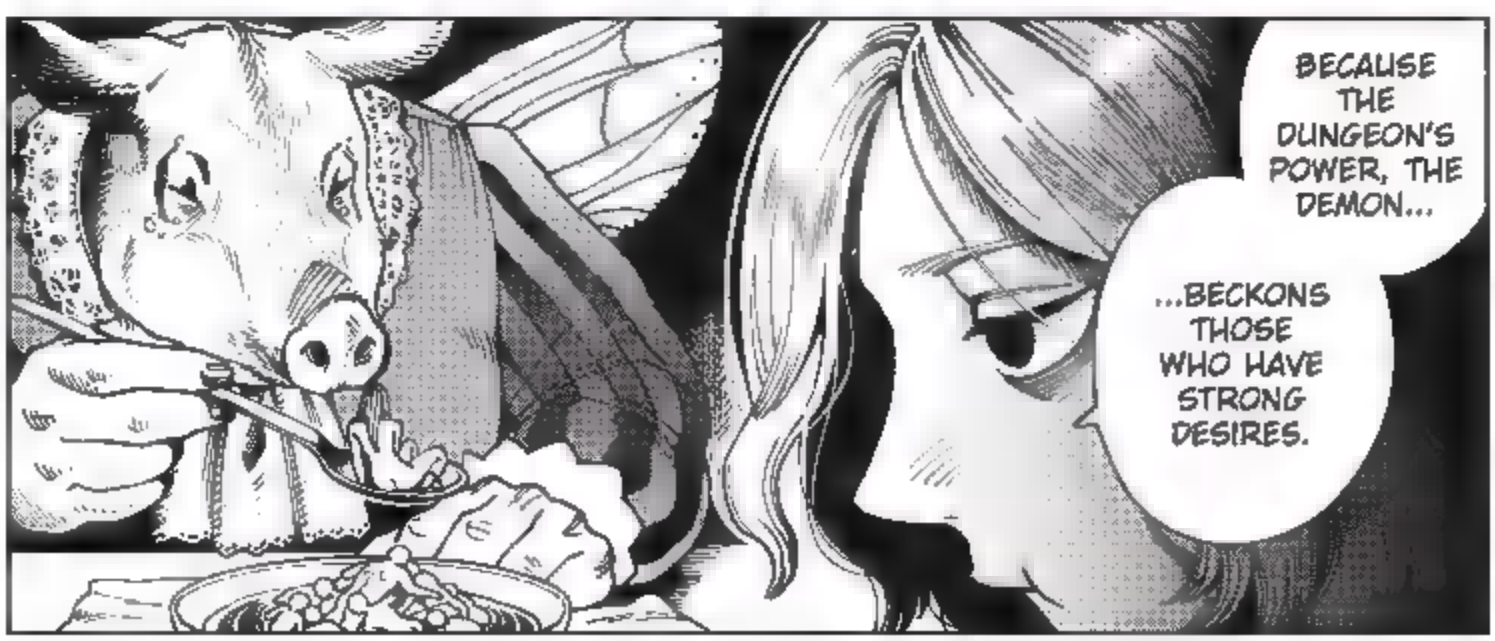
EVEN IF I EXPLAINED HOW ELF SOCIETY IS STRUCTURED, I DOUBT HE'D LISTEN...
...AND HE'S PROBABLY NOT ABLE TO UNDERSTAND COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS.

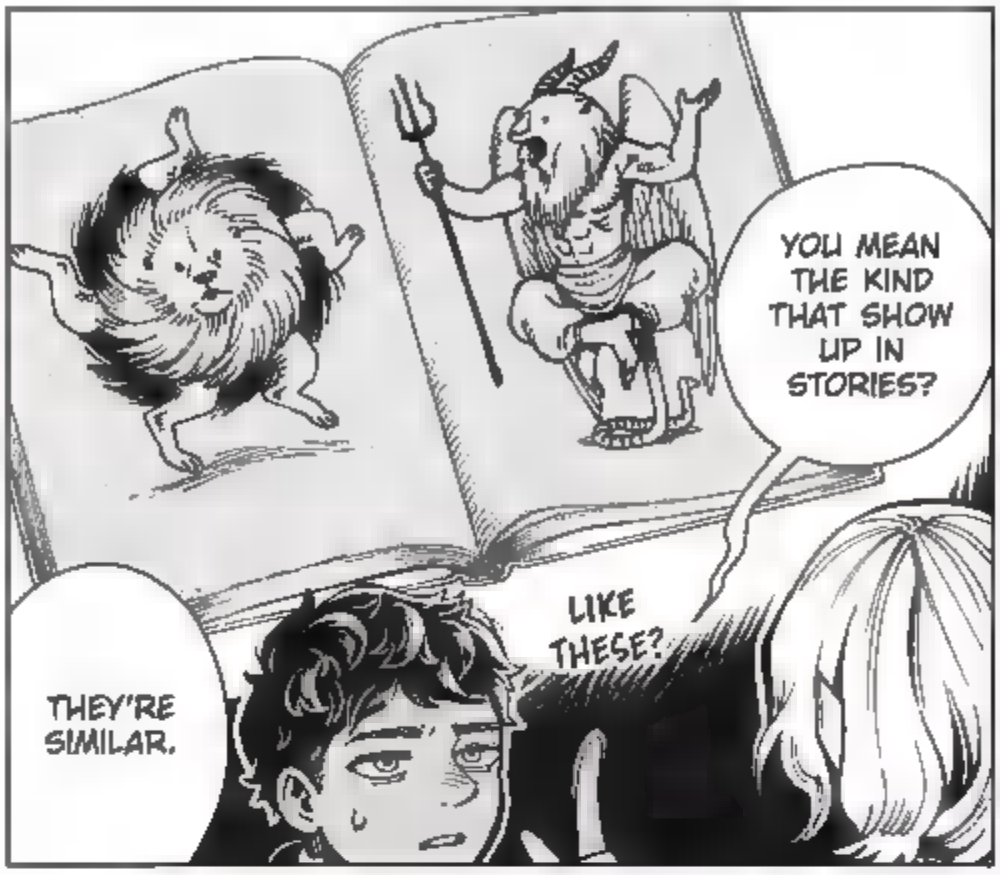
!
THERE'S SOMEONE YOU WANT TO TELL THAT STORY TO.
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONE WHO'S CLOSEST TO CAPTURING THE DUNGEON RIGHT NOW.

WHAT DOES HE WANT FROM THE DUNGEON?
WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS HE?

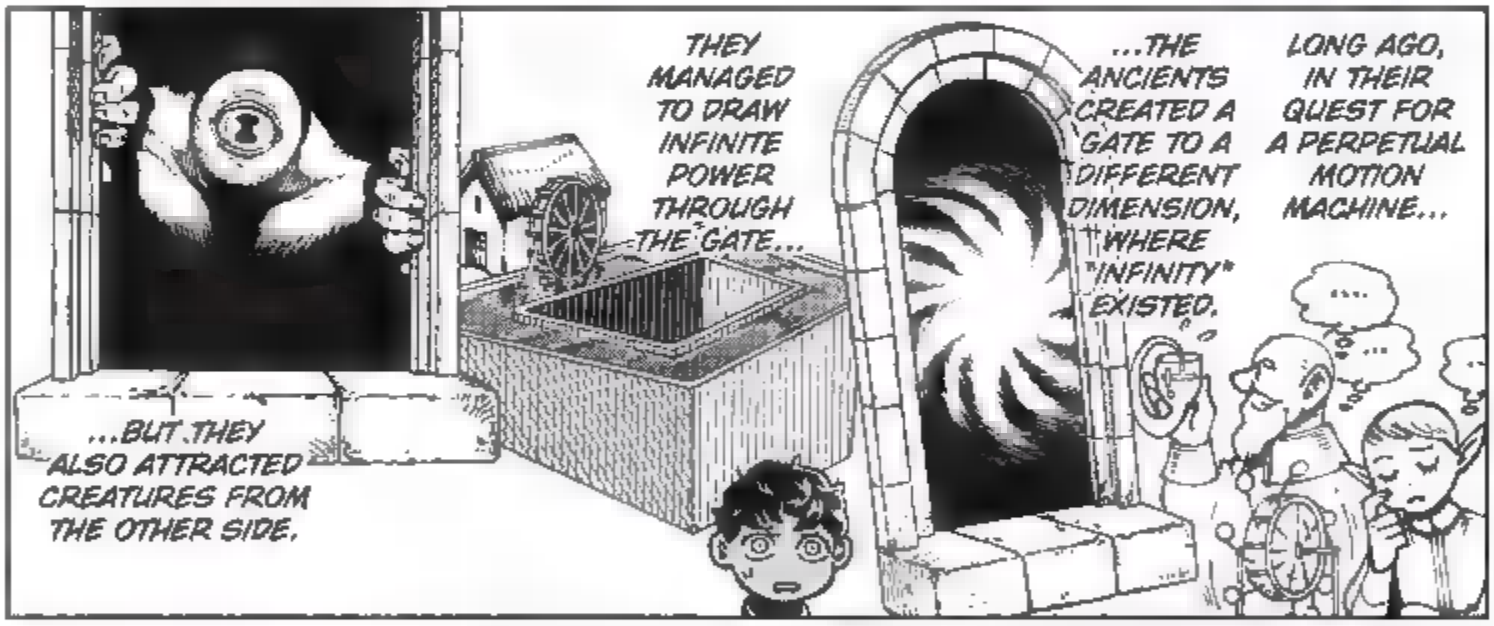
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY HE'S ABLE TO MAKE FOR ITS HEART.
I DOUBT HE WOULD.
POI (TOSS)

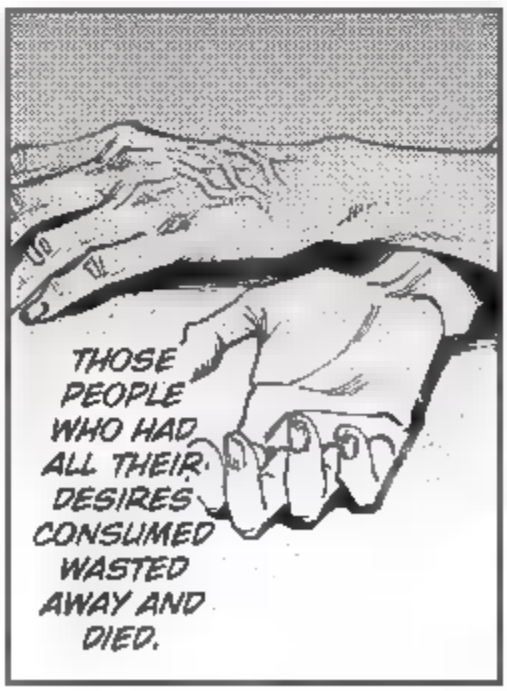
IF HE HEARD THAT STORY, WOULD HE ABANDON HIS QUEST?
.....


BECAUSE THE DUNGEON'S POWER, THE DEMON...
...BECKONS THOSE WHO HAVE STRONG DESIRES.


YOU MEAN THE KIND THAT SHOW UP IN STORIES?
LIKE THESE?
THEY'RE SIMILAR.

THESE "DEMONS" YOU KEEP MENTIONING ...

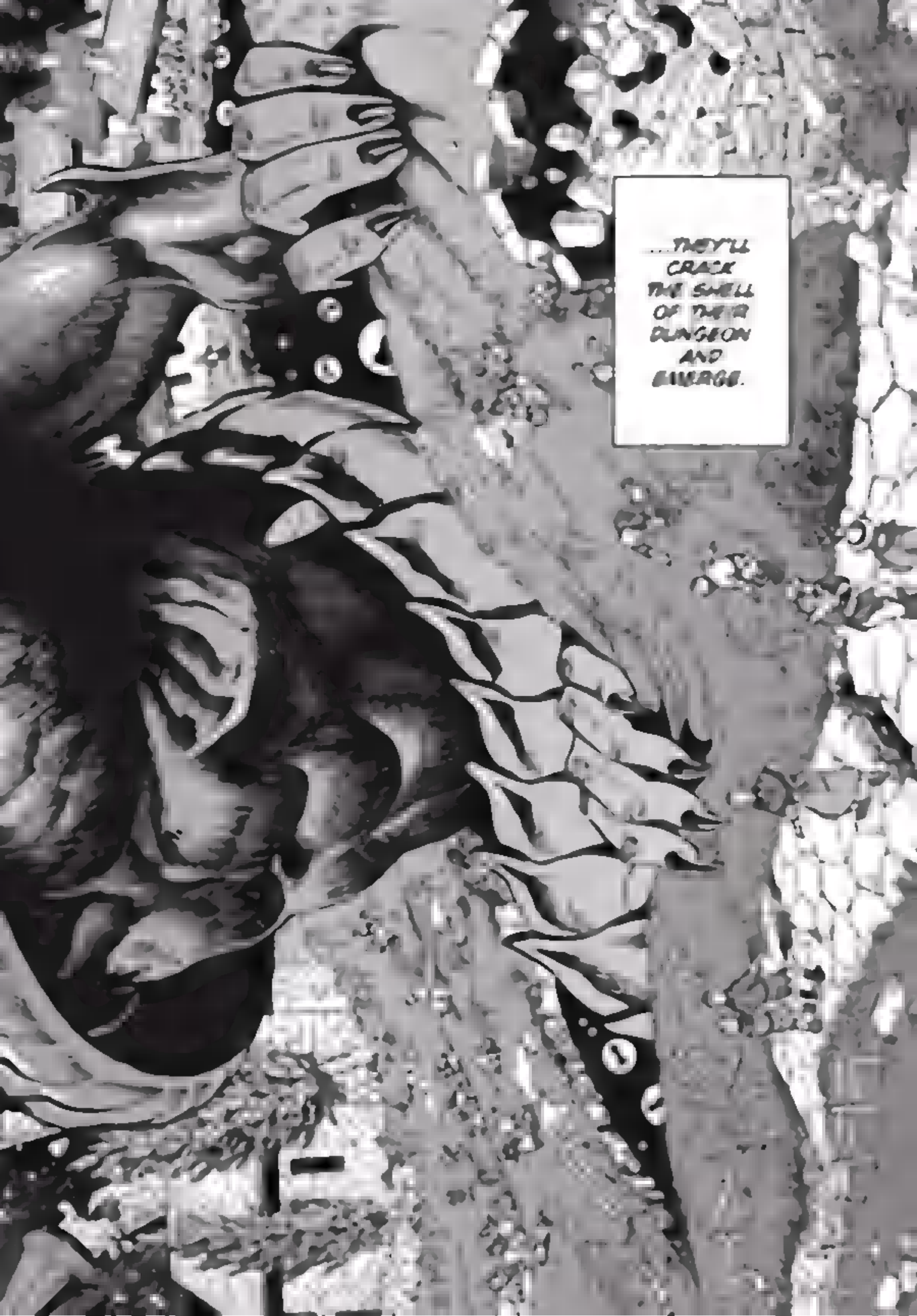

...BUT THEY ALSO ATTRACTED CREATURES FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
THEY MANAGED TO DRAW INFINITE POWER THROUGH THE GATE...
...THE ANCIENTS CREATED A GATE TO A DIFFERENT DIMENSION, WHERE "INFINITY" EXISTED.
LONG AGO, IN THEIR QUEST FOR A PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE...
....
...

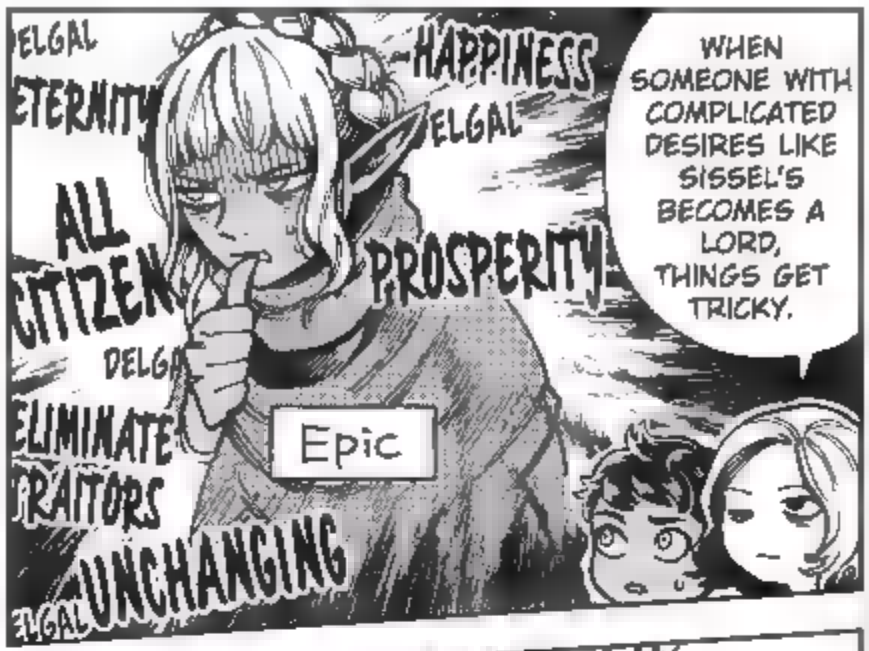

THOSE PEOPLE WHO HAD ALL THEIR DESIRES CONSUMED WASTED AWAY AND DIED.

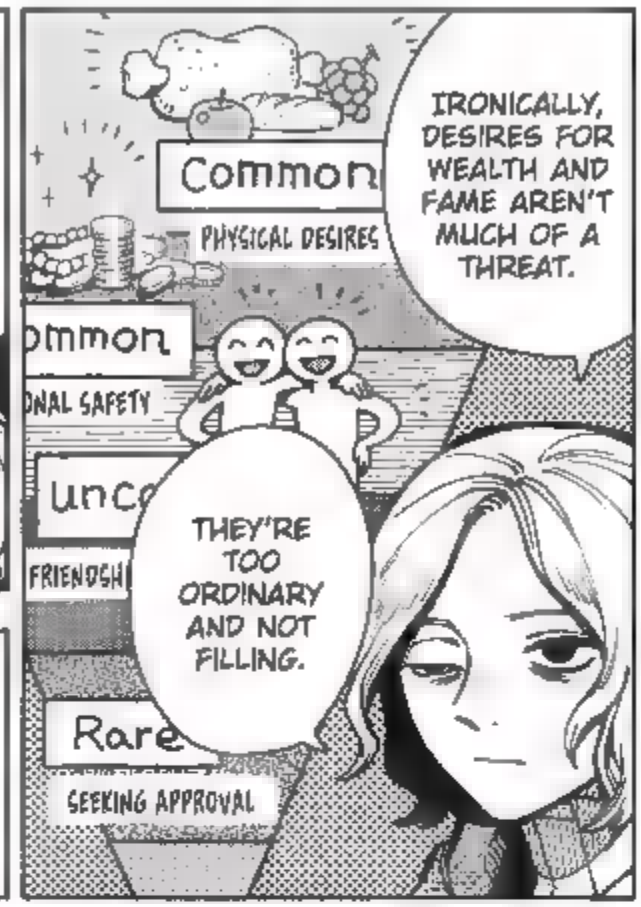
DEMONS ARE POWERLESS, BUT EATING HUMAN DESIRES GIVES THEM STRENGTH.
THE DEMONS LIKED MORTALS' DESIRES.
I WANT TO FLY.
GOOD IDEA.

THOSE ARE THE DEMONS.

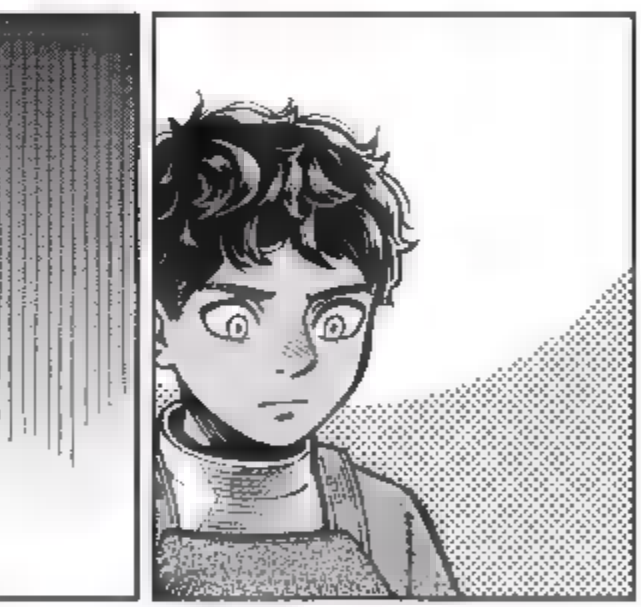
...THEY BUILT DUNGEONS.
??
?
THIS KEPT THE DEMONS FROM REACHING THE SURFACE EASILY.
THIS FRIGHTENED THE ANCIENTS.
TO PREVENT THE DEMONS FROM USING THE GATE AT WILL...
IN THE END, THE ANCIENTS KEPT GIVING THE DEMONS THEIR DESIRES, AND IT DESTROYED THEM.
IT'S TRUE THAT ANY DEMON YOU MEET WILL GRANT ANY WISH.
IF THOSE IN POWER DISCOVERED THAT, WE'D HAVE TROUBLE.
BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T STOP ANYONE.
SO ANCIENT MAGIC IS A RITUAL TO SUMMON DEMONS...?
WHY DO THE ELVES KEEP THAT A SECRET?
THE MOMENT THEY'VE EATEN ENOUGH AND HAVE ENOUGH POWER...
THE DEMONS GRANT THEIR WISHES, STIRRING UP EVEN STRONGER DESIRES.
THOSE WHOSE DESIRES ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG ARE MADE LORDS OF THE DUNGEON.
...TO DRAW AS MANY PEOPLE AS THEY CAN INTO THEIR DUNGEONS.
NOW, THE DEMONS USE VARIOUS METHODS ...


....THEY'LL CRACK THE SHELL OF THEIR DUNGEON AND EMERGE.


ELGAL
ETERNITY
HAPPINESS
ELGAL
ALL
CITIZEN
PROSPERITY
DELGA
ELIMINATE
TRAITORS
UNCHANGING
ELGAL
Epic
WHEN SOMEONE WITH COMPLICATED DESIRES LIKE SISSEL'S BECOMES A LORD, THINGS GET TRICKY.


Common
PHYSICAL DESIRES
IRONICALLY, DESIRES FOR WEALTH AND FAME AREN'T MUCH OF A THREAT.
ommon
ONAL SAFETY
unco
FRIENDSH
THEY'RE TOO ORDINARY AND NOT FILLING.
Rare
SEEKING APPROVAL

SO? WHAT SORT OF FELLOW IS HE?



DID YOU KNOW THIS, KABRU?

IN ADDITION TO THAT...
...HE...

I THINK THAT'S THE MAIN REASON, BUT...
...HE WANTS TO SAVE HIS SISTER.

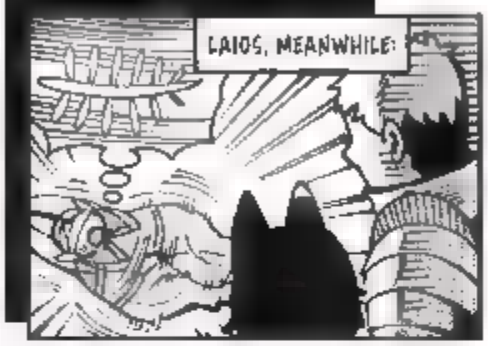
AND IT REEKS LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELI

RED DRAGON AMBERGRIS IS ABOUT THIS BIG!

HE JUST LOVES MONSTERS.

Day Five After the Fall

HRMM...



I CAN FEEL THAT THERE'S MAGIC RUNNING THROUGH IT.

THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF MECHA-NISM...

I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST THAT I'M WEAK.

IT'S NOT BUDGING.

IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING, WILL WE STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER?

STILL...

WHEN I WOKE UP AS A DIFFERENT SPECIES, I FELT COMPLETELY HOPELESS...

...BUT ELF BODIES ARE INTEREST-ING.

OH!
BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE TO NOT TURN INTO A MUSHROOM?
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO RIGHT AWA—
IF WE GET RID OF THE SPORES BEFORE THE MUSHROOMS GROW, WE'LL BE FINE.
MAN, THIS IS A PAIN.

NO. BEFORE LONG, WE'LL SPROUT MUSHROOMS ALL OVER AND LOSE OUR SENSE OF SELF.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT!?
ZAN (TA-DAA)

LET'S RUB OURSELVES DOWN.
GEEZ, THAT'S A STURDY BACK.

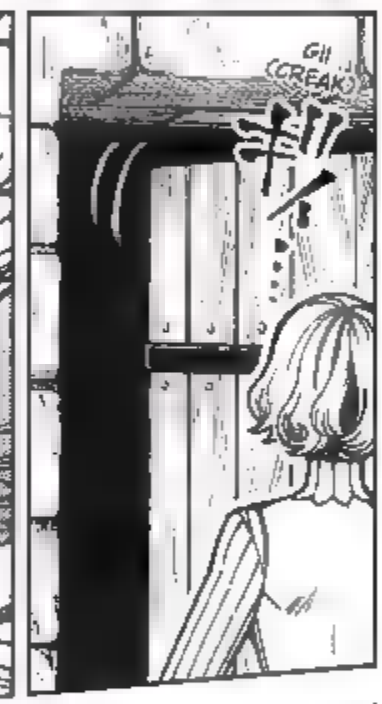
ONE DAY LEFT UNTIL RESCUE

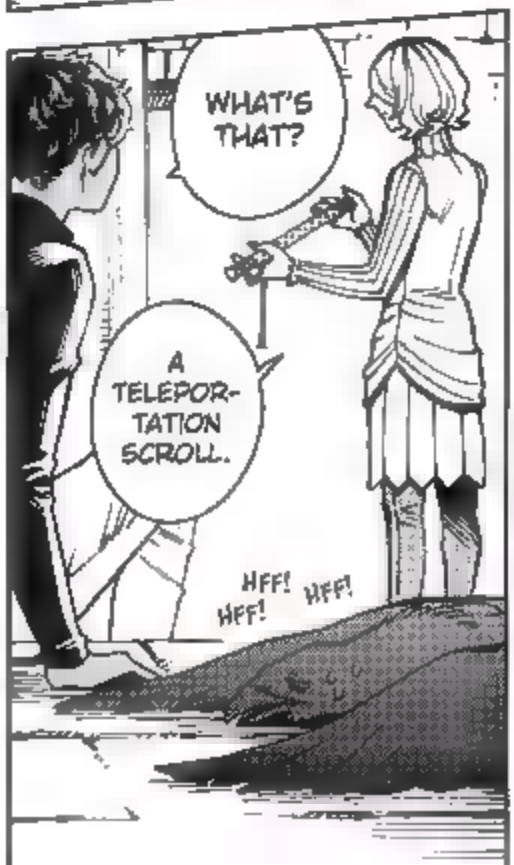
WHY DID YOU LIE?
SUUU (SHOOP)

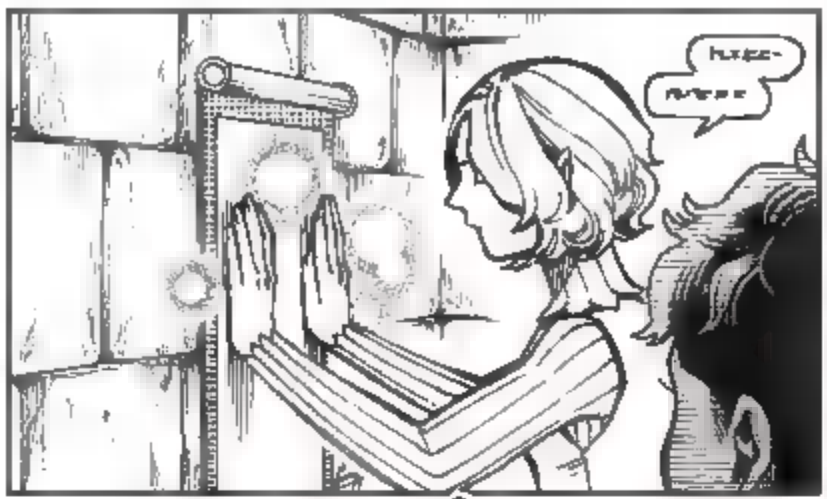
MOZO
MOZO (SQUIRM)

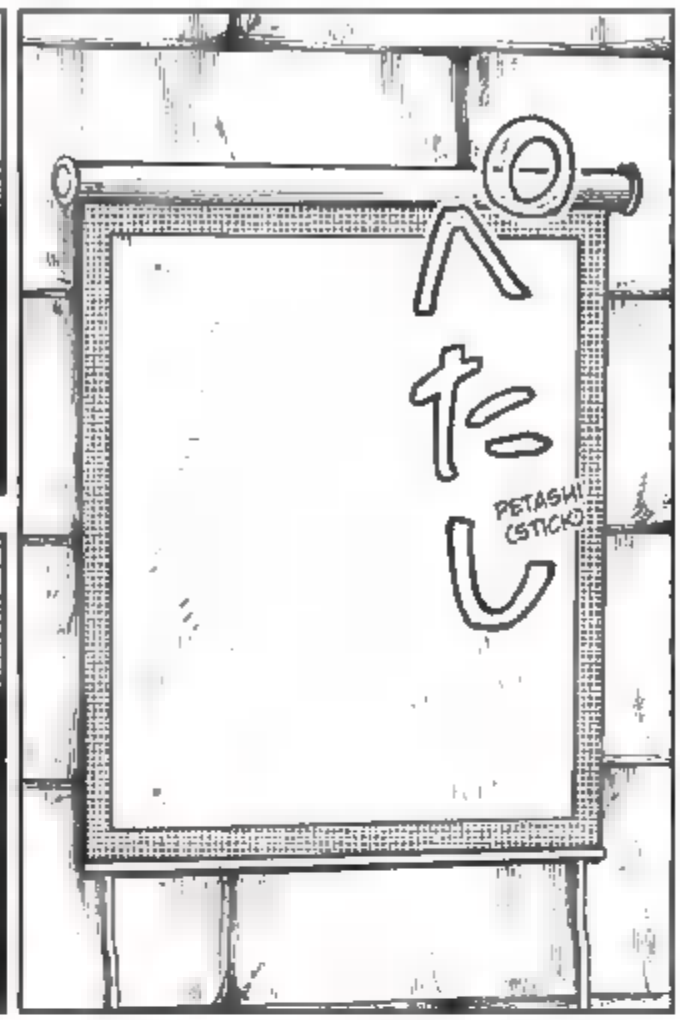
OKAY! DID YOU FORGET ANY-WHERE!?
NO.

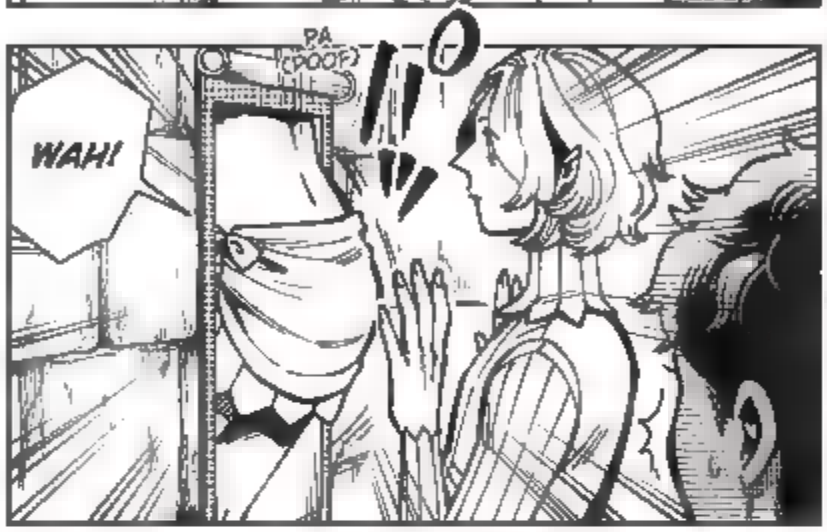
DAY SIX AFTER THE FALL

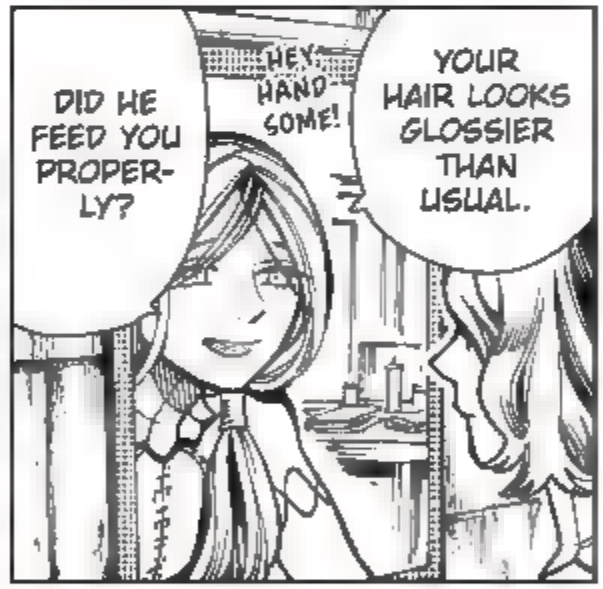




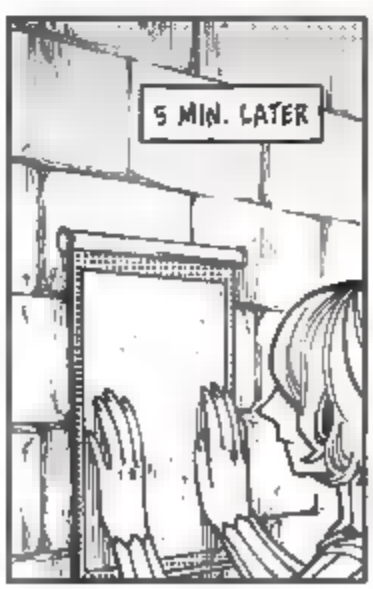


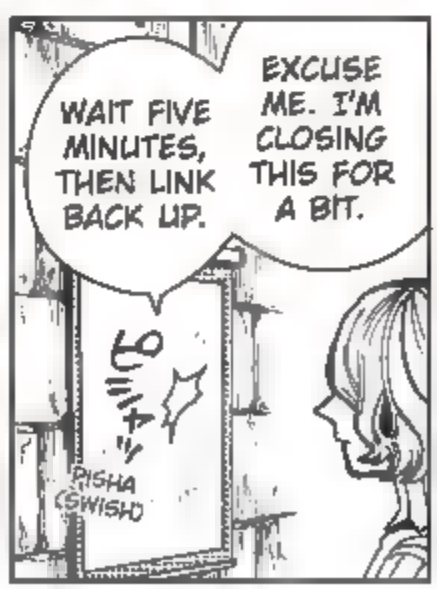

PETASHI (STICK)


PA (POOF)
WAH!

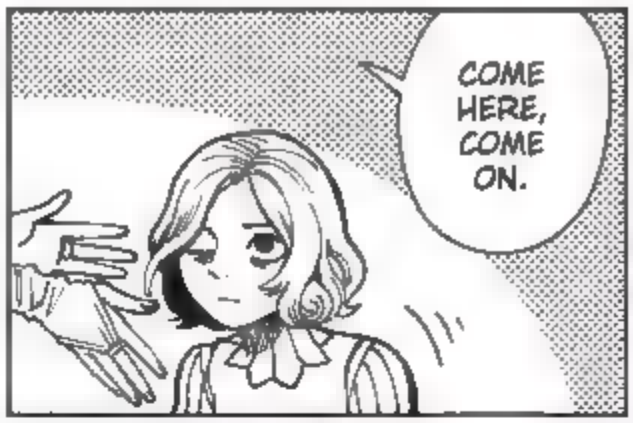

DID HE FEED YOU PROPER-LY?
HEY, HAND-SOME!
YOUR HAIR LOOKS GLOSSIER THAN USUAL.

WHOA. CAPTAIN.
THAT WAS CLOSE.
LYCION, HUH?

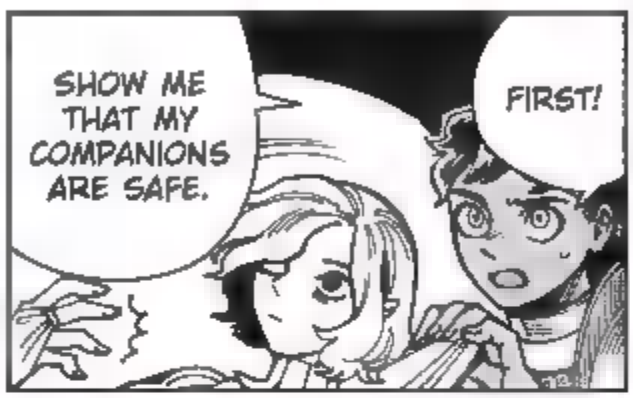

5 MIN. LATER


WAIT FIVE MINUTES, THEN LINK BACK UP.
EXCUSE ME. I'M CLOSING THIS FOR A BIT.
PISHA (SWISH)

PATTADOL SNAPPED AND CALLED THE GROUP THAT WAS ON STANDBY ASHORE.
SO THINGS GOT A BIT CRAZY...
OH!
CAN I LIE DOWN?
WHAT'S THE NOISE ABOUT ?

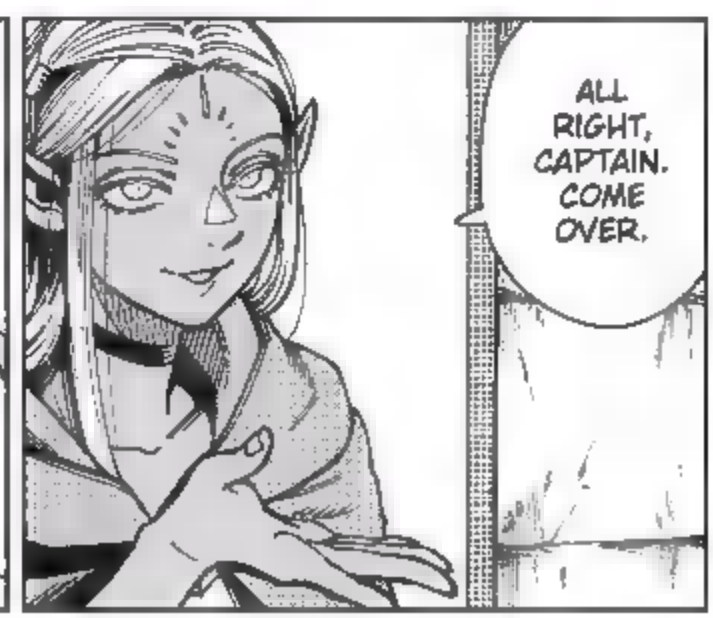

COME HERE, COME ON.

CAPTAIN MITHRUN!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS...!


SHOW ME THAT MY COMPANIONS ARE SAFE.
FIRST!

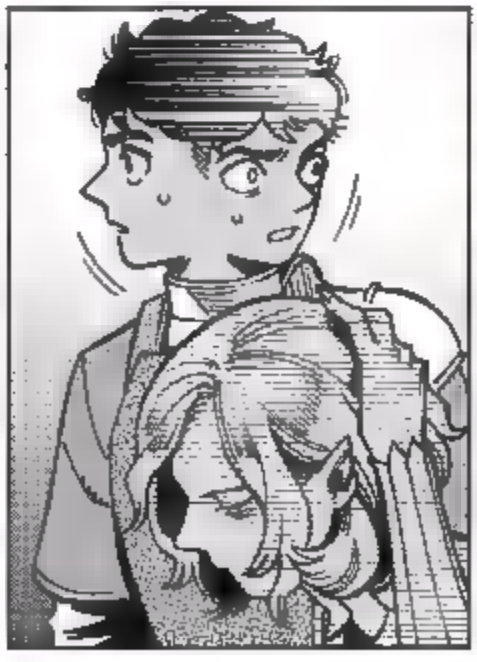
BRING THEM HERE.
GROW UP.
WHO THE HE—

I GUESS THEY REALLY HAVE HAD THEIR HANDS FULL.
NOT THE OTHERS.
SO IT WAS THEM.


ALL RIGHT, CAPTAIN. COME OVER.

RI
GO
GO CHONKO
!?
JIRI (JINGLE)
LAIOS, MEANWHILE:
GO GET IT!
RIN

WAS THAT—



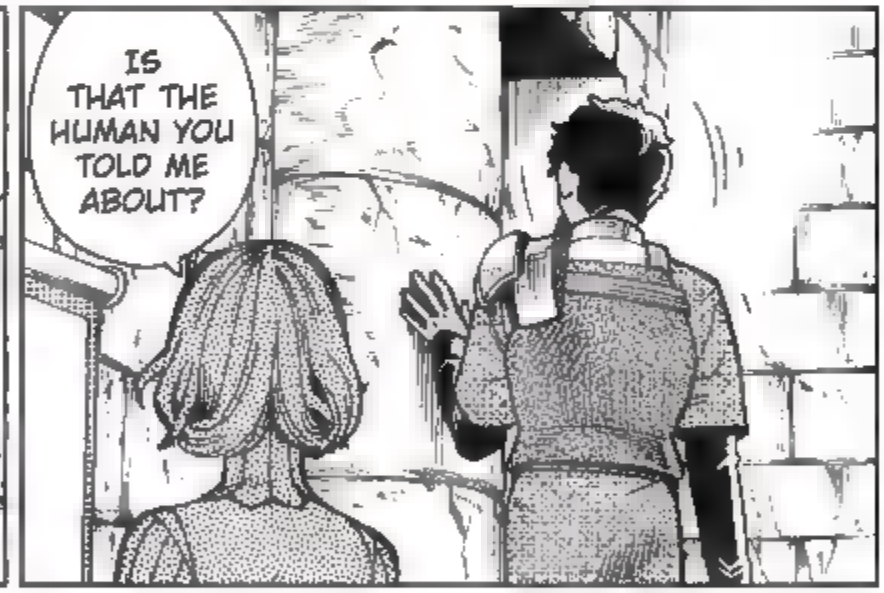
SHUT UP.
B-BEG PARDON.

LAIOS IS NEARBY...

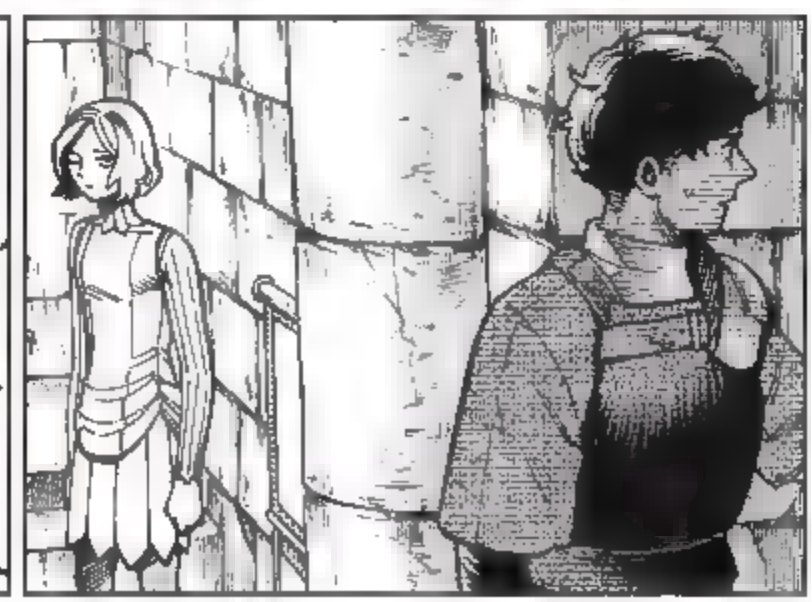
DID YOU JUST HEAR ANOTHER BELL?

LAIOS?

CAPTAIN MITHRUN?
HURRY AND COME HERE.


IS THAT THE HUMAN YOU TOLD ME ABOUT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?



SO WHEN I FOUND OUT HE WAS JUST A MONSTER FANATIC, I WAS RELIEVED.

MONEY, FAME, OTHER PEOPLE...

NONE OF IT SEEMED TO INTEREST HIM. IT WAS EERIE.

I FIRST TOOK AN INTEREST IN HIM...

...BECAUSE I COULDN'T TELL WHAT HE'D BECOME AN ADVENTURER TO DO.

AN AWFUL FEELING.

BUT NOW, I HAVE...

...A REALLY BAD FEELING.

I'D LIKE TO STAY DOWN HERE AND KEEP EXPLORING.

I WANT TO TALK TO LAIOS ONE MORE TIME.

ZA (SHF)

HUH?

RIGHT.

THEN LET'S DO THAT.

MAN...

GET UP.

WE'RE GOING AFTER THE CAPTAIN!

HURRY AND GET READY!

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF—!

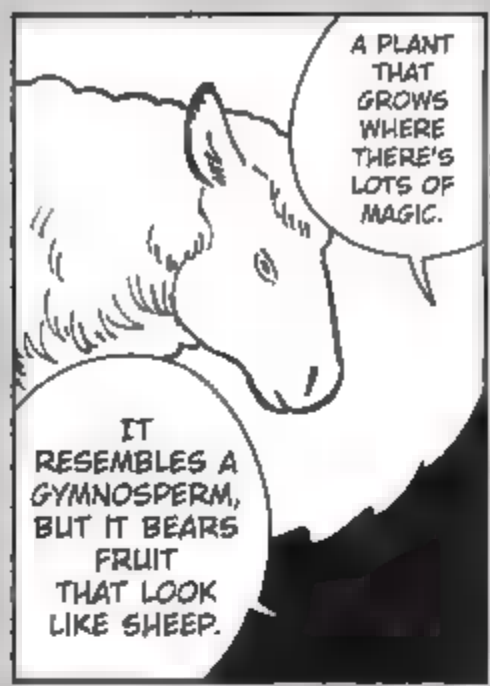
STOP!

W-WAIT, CAPTAIN!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?

CAPTAIN, PLEASE WAIT!

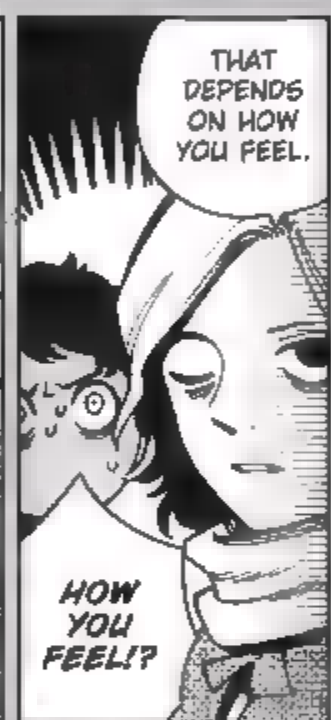
be continued...


A PLANT THAT GROWS WHERE THERE'S LOTS OF MAGIC.
IT RESEMBLES A GYMNOSPERM, BUT IT BEARS FRUIT THAT LOOK LIKE SHEEP.

IS THIS A MONSTER?
IT'S A BARO-METZ.

MISC. MONSTER TALES
BAROMETZ
9

THERE ARE MEAT EATERS WHO SAY IT'S A PLANT AND WON'T EAT IT.
THERE ARE VEGETARIANS WHO CONTEND IT'S AN ANIMAL, SO THEY WON'T EAT IT.


THAT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU FEEL.
HOW YOU FEEL!?

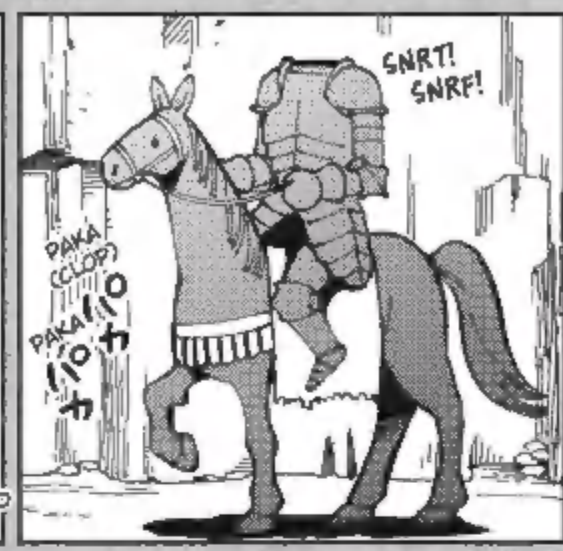
WHEN CUT FROM THE STALK, THE FRUIT STARTS ROTTING AT ONCE, SO IT DOESN'T MAKE GOOD TRAVEL RATIONS.
IT SPREADS ITS SEEDS BY GETTING CARNIVORES TO EAT ITS FRUIT.
DID YOU MEMORIZE THAT?
SO IT IS A MONSTER?

I DIDN'T SAY IT WASN'T A M—
WELL, I'LL EAT ANYTHING AS LONG AS IT'S NOT A MONSTER.
SINCE IT'S NOT A MONSTER.

IN OTHER WORDS, NOBODY EATS IT.

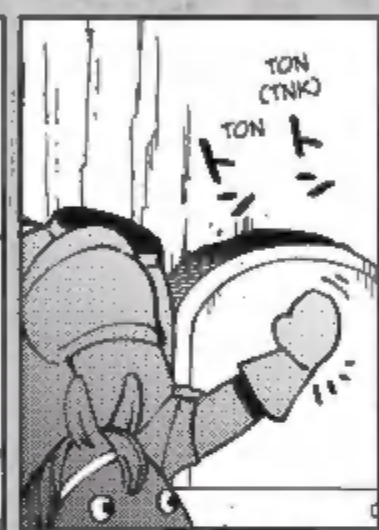
SOME SAY IT'S UNCLEAR WHETHER IT'S A MONSTER, PLANT OR ANIMAL, SO THEY WON'T EAT IT.

HM?
BOSO (MRMR)
BOSO


SNRT! SNRF!
PAKA (CLOP)
PAKA

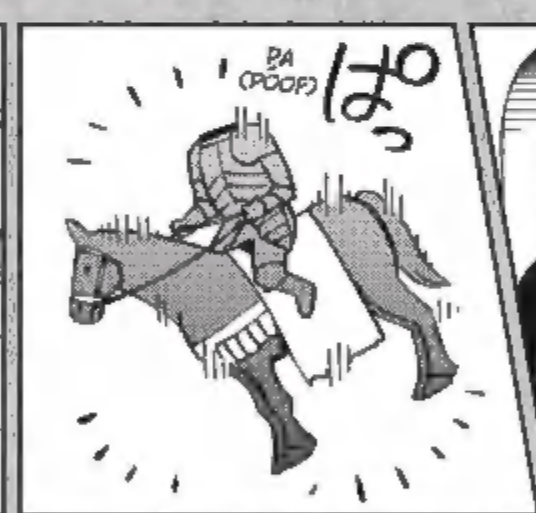
DULLAHAN

I'LL GET IT.
IT MIGHT BE THEM!
DID YOU JUST HEAR SOME-THING?


TON (TNK)
TON

I KNOW THEY WERE NEAR US BACK THEN.
WHERE ON EARTH DID LAIOS'S GROUP GO?

SOLICI-TOR.
(OF DEATH.)
WHAT WAS IT?
HYUUU (HWOOO)


PA (POOF)

GACHA (KACHAK)

ZUBA (SKASH)
WHY !?

HUFF! HAFF!
WHEEZE! WHEEZE!

.....

THE OTHERS WERE ALL SKILLED.
CHILCHUCK, JUST STARTING OUT
FRANKLY, I HAD NOTHING TO DO.

THEIR TERMS WERE EXCELLENT, SO I CHEERFULLY SIGNED ON.
WAY BACK WHEN, I GOT SCOUTED BY A SUCCUBUS HUNTING PARTY.
HUH.

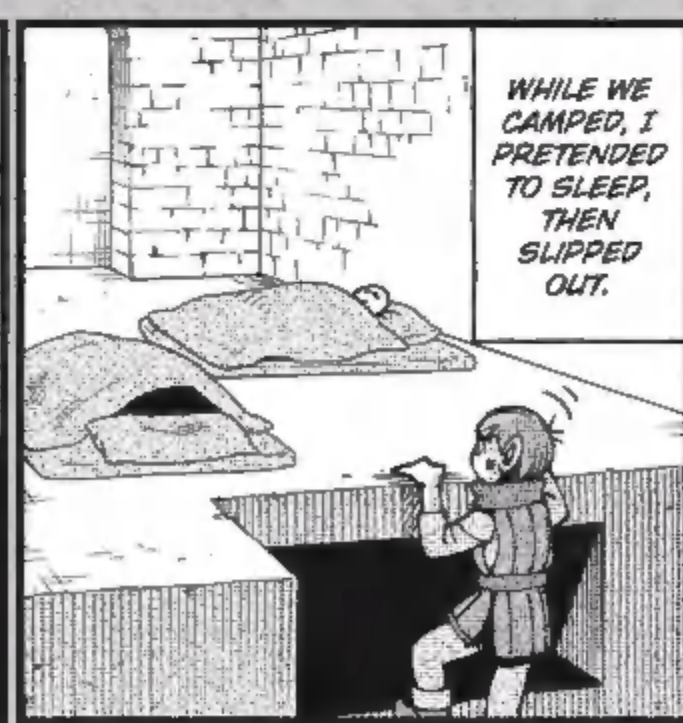
SUCCUBUS

DESTROYED FOR THE SECRETION THEY USE AS A WEAPON. THAT'S IRONIC.
HMM.
I GUESS THE HUMANS WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF THEM.

YOU USED TO BE ABLE TO EARN MORE.
ONLY THEY'VE BEEN OVERHUNTED LATELY, SO THERE AREN'T AS MANY.

DOES HUNTING SUCCUBI REALLY PAY THAT MUCH?
YEAH, SURE.

HEY, WHERE DID THAT HALF-FOOT GO?
HE'S NOT HERE.


WHILE WE CAMPED, I PRETENDED TO SLEEP, THEN SLIPPED OUT.

JUST THEN, I GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN.

I FINALLY GOT IT.

THE SUCCUBI WERE GETTING ADVENTURERS WHO WANTED THEIR SECRETIONS TO KEEP THEM FED WITH OTHER ADVENTURERS!

HISO

HISO (PSST)

SO WE HUNT WITHOUT BAIT THIS TIME?

NO.

UNLESS WE FEED THEM AND LET THEM BREED, THE SUCCUBI WILL DIE OUT.

!

HISO

I WOULDN'T MIND GIVING THEM A LITTLE LIFE FORCE IF THOSE SECRETIONS WERE LESS DAMAGING.

REALLY, THOUGH...

THAT ITCH IS AWFUL!

WHOA...

...AND I FORMED A UNION TO KEEP HALF-FOOTS FROM BEING CONSIDERED DISPOSABLE.

—EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE ONLY TAKEN JOBS THAT PAID UP FRONT...

SO THE SUCCUBI WERE ONE STEP AHEAD OF THEM.

IN OTHER WORDS, PEOPLE ARE YET ANOTHER STEP AHEAD.

THIS ISN'T THAT SORT OF CONTEST.

OUR BODY GOES OUT OF ITS WAY TO MAKE US ITCH SO THAT WE'LL AVOID GETTING STUNG BY SUCCUBI.

I THINK THAT'S HOW WE PROTECT OURSELVES.

THEN WE WOULD ALL GO EXTINCT...

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT, EVERYBODY WOULD LINE UP TO GET STUNG.

9

DELICIOUS IN DUNGEON

RYOKO KUI

Translation: Taylor Engel **Lettering: Abigail Blackman**

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